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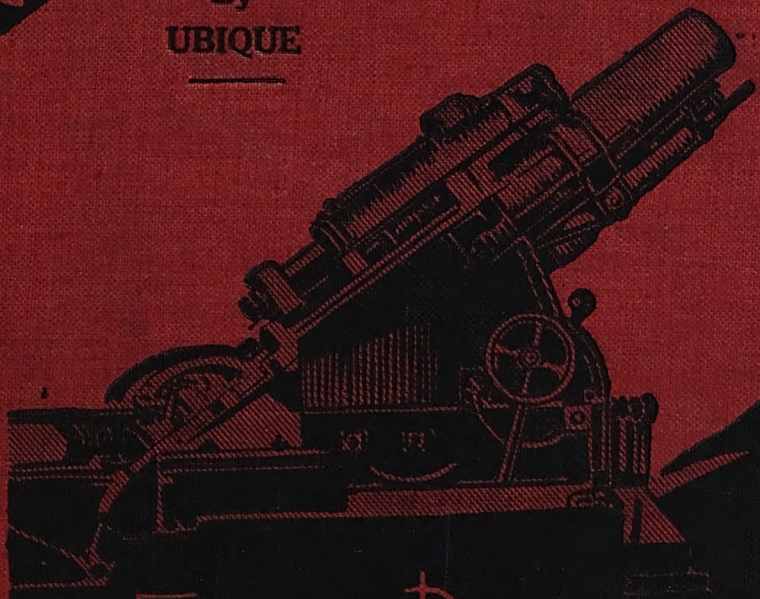

Famous Batteries of the Royal Artillery.

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Famous Batteries

of the

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

In 1833 the Royal Artillery was granted the privilege of bearing the word " Ubique " as a universal battle honour on its badge, and at the same time the right of individual batteries to various honours was withdrawn. In 1926, however, distinctive sub-titles were officially awarded to a number of Artillery units and it is the object of this book to explain how these titles were won. No attempt has been made to give a full history of the batteries concerned.

The author's thanks are due to the various artists and publishers by whose courteous permission the illustrations are included. The articles on Q (Sannah's Post) Field Battery, 4th (Gibraltar) Heavy Battery, 58th (Maiwand) Field Battery, and The Sphinx Batteries have already appeared in " The Gunner Magazine," and are republished by the kind permission of the Editor.

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"If you want to win
your battles, take
an' work your
bloomin' guns!"

—*Kipling.*

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"A"
(The Chestnut Troop)
BATTERY R.H.A.

" A " Battery R.H.A., was raised in 1793 as the first unit of a new branch of the Army. Though the necessity for really mobile guns to accompany cavalry had been realised for some time, and though Horse Artillery had been introduced into the Prussian service as early as 1759, no steps were taken to provide the British Army with this most essential branch until the rupture with France made action imperative. Under these circumstances the Chestnut Troop was formed, under the command of Capt. N. Lawson.

The armament of the Troop was peculiar, for it included two 3 pounders, two 6 pounders and two 5½ inch howitzers, The detachments were mounted and only picked officers were posted to the unit, while the N.C.O.s and men received extra pay. From the start the Horse Artillery was regarded as a *corps d'elite* and every effort was made to make it popular and efficient. Later the armament was more or less standardised and batteries were generally equipped with 6 pounders, though a single 5½ inch howitzer was often included.

The Chestnut Troop was soon engaged on service in helping to suppress the Irish Rebellion in 1798, and two of its guns were present at the engagements at Ross, Wexford and Vinegar Hill. Its baptism of fire, however, really dates from 1799 when the Troop proceeded on active service abroad during the unfortunate expedition to Holland under the Duke of York. The battery was at that time commanded by Major Judgson and consisted of 6 officers, 16 N.C.O.s, 97 gunners, 58 drivers, 7 artificers and one trumpeter, with 191 horses. On this occasion the armament was curiously

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mixed, for it included two 12 pounders, two 5½-inch howitzers and three six pounders so that the Horse Artillery actually had two of its guns of twice the calibre of those of the field batteries which had 6 pounders.

The object of the expedition was to gain control of the Dutch fleet in order to deny its use to the French and to

SIR HEW D. ROSS,
Who commanded The Chestnut Troop
during the Peninsular War.
The First Gunner Field Marshal.
(*From Browne's*
England's Artillerymen).

provoke a rising of the inhabitants. A Russian force was to co-operate with the British but its late arrival caused so great a delay that the French were able to concentrate a large army to oppose the invaders. The Dutch ships were secured, however, and a French counter attack repulsed before " A " Battery disembarked with the Duke of York's division and our Russian allies.

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The Chestnut Troop took part in the action at Egmont-op-Zee on the 19th September, 1799 and was engaged at the battle of Alkmaar on the 2nd of October. In this latter engagement the Troop formed part of General Abercrombie's column which bore the brunt of the fighting and, owing to the temporary success of an enemy counter attack, it was left for a time unsupported. Seizing the opportunity, a French Dragoon regiment charged the guns and in spite of a heavy fire which emptied many saddles, they swept into the battery position. The gunners clustered round the guns and fought desperately with any weapons they could find, so that a confused *melée* took place. Two at least of the guns were captured, though only after the artillerymen had been sabred around them, but before the cavalry could rally and re-form they in turn were charged by Lord Paget at the head of the 15th Light Dragoons (now the 15th King's Hussars). The guns were speedily recovered and the enemy horsemen were pursued for over a mile, suffering very heavy losses. The British army re-embarked for England shortly after this battle.

Ten years later the Chestnut Troop joined Wellington's army in Spain in time to take part in the retreat from Talavera and remained in the Peninsula till the end of the war taking part in all the major engagements. At Waterloo the Troop was equipped with five 9 pounders and a 5½-inch howitzer and was in action near La Haye Sainte where three of its guns were disabled and heavy losses were suffered among men and horses. The battery also fought in the Crimea, in South Africa and in the Great War, so that it has missed few of the great campaigns since its formation.

As the senior unit of the Royal Horse Artillery, " A " Battery has always occupied a proud position on the right of the line of the British Army, and by Army Order No. 135 of 1902 it received the official title of the " Chestnut Troop." Tradition means much to a battery and the example of those gunners who fell fighting round their guns at Alkmaar 130 years ago has not been forgotten.

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"G"

(Mercer's Troop)

BATTERY R.H.A.

It is perhaps only fitting that of the comparatively few batteries of the Royal Artillery which bear special designations in commemoration of great deeds of the past, several of these honours have been conferred on units which fought at Waterloo. Of the thirteen British batteries present on that occasion, none took a more glorious share than "G" Battery R.H.A.—then known as Mercer's Troop.

Raised in 1801 in Ireland as "G" Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, the battery saw service in South America, and in June 1815 was billeted near Brussels. At this time it was commanded by 2nd Captain Mercer, and was armed with five 9-pdr. guns and one 5½-in. howitzer—a curiously mixed equipment, which was in those days quite usual. The battery had 226 horses, and with its five officers and 164 other ranks it formed a well-found and efficient unit, which was on several occasions specially praised by inspecting officers. Indeed, the famous Prussian General Blucher remarked that any horse in the battery was fit for a Field Marshal.

Though "G" Troop was not present at the battle of Quatre Bras on the 16th June, it was one of the two R.H.A. batteries which covered the retirement to the Waterloo position, and thus rendered the greatest service to the mounted troops who were hotly beset by the enemy cavalry.

On the morning of the 18th of June, when the battle of Waterloo opened, Mercer's Troop was at first stationed

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on the right, with orders to fire only on enemy troops if they attacked, and to ignore hostile artillery. This inactivity was too much for the impetuous Captain Mercer, who commenced a deliberate fire on an enemy battery, but he soon realised his mistake, since his action drew heavy fire on the position in reply. Shortly afterwards, however, the battery was ordered to move at a gallop towards the centre of the Allied line, where it came into action behind a road. The Duke of Wellington's orders to the Artillery were quite definite—if charged by enemy cavalry the gunners were to fire to the last moment, abandon their guns, and take refuge in the nearest infantry square. The Duke knew that the horsemen would be unable to damage the guns, and as soon as they were beaten back the gunners would run to their pieces and re-open their fire. Mercer's battery was situated slightly in front of, and in the interval between, two squares of Brunswick infantry. These were raw troops, lacking the tenacious discipline of veteran regiments, and Mercer realised at once that if his men left their guns and ran towards the squares the Brunswickers would almost certainly break. The risk of disaster was too great, so he deliberately disobeyed the Duke's orders and kept his men at their guns. This was the only battery at Waterloo that did so, and there is no doubt that the decision in this case was a correct one. The French cavalry, in spite of the utmost bravery, were driven off by a furious discharge of case shot, and the infantry squares were protected from really vigorous attack and encouraged to stand firm by the example so nobly set them. Three times were the enemy horsemen repulsed, on each occasion with dreadful slaughter until the ground for sixty yards in front of G Troop was piled high with corpses of men and animals.

So far the battery had escaped very heavy losses, but hardly had the enemy cavalry retired for the third and last time when a furious fire was opened on the Troop from a flank. An enemy battery had established itself so as to enfilade the British gunners and its fire took a

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dreadful toll. Over 140 horses were put out of action, and the gun detachments were so weakened by casualties, that it was only with the greatest difficulty that four out of the six guns could be manned. Fortunately a Belgian battery engaged the French in enfilade, but by that time G Troop was almost annihilated. It was impossible to move even a single gun to support the pursuit of the beaten enemy, and the battery bivouaced that night where it had fought.

Though the distinguished services of the Troop at Waterloo were everywhere admitted, yet the Duke never forgave Mercer for twice disobeying his orders. He was not recommended for brevet promotion, and on his being appointed to command another Troop, the Duke stepped in and disbanded the battery. But Captain Mercer has at last won recognition of his services by the association for ever of his name with the fine battery he so gallantly led at Waterloo.

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"I"
(Bull's Troop)
BATTERY R.H.A.

It is a curious fact that though Bull's Troop has one of the most distinguished records of any of the old Peninsula batteries, it is chiefly remembered for an incident which is always connected with the name, not of its commanding officer, but with that of its 2nd Captain. The exploit of Captain Norman Ramsay with two guns of Bull's Troop at Fuentes d'Onoro in 1811 has indeed become historic.

The retreat of Crauford's Light Division across a level plain and beset by superior numbers of enemy cavalry and artillery was in itself a magnificent feat. The infantry moved in squares while the cavalry and artillery manoeuvred in the intervals to protect their comrades of the Line. This necessitated numerous charges by the British mounted men while the Horse Artillery by its dash and rapidity in getting in and out of action materially assisted the retirement and kept the French gunners at a respectful distance. The whole operation was in fact an excellent example of loyal and intelligent co-operation between the three arms and was attended by the success it deserved.

During this retirement two guns of Bull's Troop under 2nd Captain Norman Ramsay had dropped into action to fire a few rounds at the advancing enemy. On this occasion the guns waited too long before retiring and they had barely finished limbering up before a mass of Montbrun's horsemen approached from a flank. Artillery when on the move is notoriously defenceless and against the onrush of disciplined cavalry there seemed little hope of the battery avoiding capture. But Captain Ramsay had no intention of giving way, and in the few moments left to him before the Chasseurs charged home, he hastily assembled his mounted detachments at the head and on the threatened flank of his guns. In this formation the Troop set off at a gallop

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but a moment later the little column was charged by the French cavalry. To the anxious spectators with the main body of Wellington's army all that was apparent was a confused *melée* clouded with dust through which the occasional glint of a sabre striking home could be seen ; but in a moment the two guns of Bull's Troop emerged from the fight still protected by the mounted gunners. Among the cheers of all who witnessed the incident, the battery galloped back and shortly afterwards rejoined the army.

It should be explained that gallant as was the charge of the gunners, there is no doubt that they could hardly have succeeded but for the timely intervention of the British cavalry. At the moment when the guns were struggling to shake off the enemy horsemen, a squadron of the 14th Dragoons and another of the Royals themselves most gallantly charged the French in flank and it was this well timed diversion which enabled Norman Ramsay to extricate his guns from such a desperate situation. Yet full credit must be given to the artillerymen, for unless they had adopted bold tactics and had been fired with the determination to cut their way through at all costs, the cavalry would have been too late to save them from destruction or capture. In its way this incident is a very good practical example of the happy results which almost always attend intelligent co-operation between the different arms. The escape of Bull's Troop also had a most invigorating effect on the morale of the whole army, many units of which had witnessed the exploit. It was also perhaps the first recorded instance of a battery, caught unescorted on the move, escaping well-handled cavalry.

The exploit of Norman Ramsay has often been recorded—and not always correctly—but it certainly did much to enhance the fine reputation already established by Bull's Troop. Though this unit has now changed its name to I Battery R.H.A. it still retains the same spirit on which Norman Ramsay so rightly counted at Fuentes d'Onoro and recalls with pride the glories of the Peninsula which remain associated with its special title—" Bull's Troop."

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" L "
(Nèry) Battery,
R.H.A.

The story of " L " Battery, R.H.A., at Nèry, on the 1st of September, 1914, undoubtedly captured the public imagination more than any other single incident in the early days of the War. This was partly because it appealed to the sporting instincts of the British people, who love to see the ultimate victory of the weaker side after a stout fight. The gallantry of the whole battery, the indomitable spirit which kept that single gun in action when all seemed lost, and the personal courage of both officers and men, all appealed to the man in the street, and the final success of British arms made the whole affair even more sensational.

At dawn on the 1st of September, 1914, the horses of " L " Battery, R.H.A., were being watered in preparation for a continuance of the retreat from Mons. The 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Bays) were sharing the same bivouac, but the remaining units of the 1st Cavalry Brigade were in billets some distance away. The morning was misty, but there was no reason to suppose that the enemy were anywhere near, and no cavalry patrols had been ordered out.

Suddenly, without a moment's warning, a storm of shrapnel burst over the position from twelve German field guns, which had come into action 800 yards away. With these guns was a cavalry division, and the carbines and machine guns of the enemy troopers added to the slaughter among the British. Most of the Battery's horses were killed outright and many of the men, while three of the six guns were immediately put out of action by this

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hurricane fire, but the gunners instantly rallied round the remaining guns. Meanwhile the Bays had attempted to open fire from the shelter of a sunken road behind the guns, but officers and men quickly fell under the deluge of shrapnel which swept the whole area. It was soon clear that the cavalry could do little and the only hope of resistance lay with the Horse Artillery.

Never did a battery answer the call more gallantly. Before they could open fire two of the remaining three guns were hit and put out of action, so that there was left only a single gun to deal with the three German batteries.

Major Sclater-Booth and one subaltern were already hit, but Captain Bradbury took command and the single gun opened fire. Lieutenant Mundy stood in the open to observe the fire, but was at once mortally wounded, while Captain Bradbury was also hit, though he continued to give his orders propped up against the trail, with his leg hopelessly shattered. It was necessary to carry the ammunition from a limber in rear, and soon only Sergeant Dorrell, Driver Osbourne and Gunners Nelson and Derbyshire were left to man the gun. While the Sergeant laid and Nelson acted as No. 2, the other two carried ammunition, though all four were wounded. And then it was seen that this devotion to duty was not unrewarded, for the enemy fire slackened and some of his guns were silent.

At this critical moment help arrived, for the 1st Middlesex and 1st Scottish Rifles had hurried up at the sound of firing, and their deadly rifle fire soon forced the Germans to retire abandoning eight of their guns, two of which were still loaded. The cavalry pursued the enemy and captured some prisoners and an ambulance, but superior numbers soon forced the British to retire. Meanwhile "L" Battery had by desperate efforts replaced their broken gun wheels, and all the guns were brought away, though the unit had to return to England to be re-equipped before it was again ready for active service.

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The British casualties in this action amounted to 500, including nearly the whole of " L " Battery and many of the Bays, while the infantry and 5th Dragoon Guards did not escape unscathed. The Germans admitted 643 casualties, and as those of their artillery were excluded, the total could not have been much less than 700, besides the guns. Furthermore, the loss of their artillery and the casualties among their troopers undoubtedly weakened the 4th German Cavalry Division in the subsequent critical operations.

Captain Bradbury, Gunner Nelson and Sergeant Dorrell received the Victoria Cross for their gallantry on this occasion, and never were decorations better earned. But perhaps their greatest reward lies in the knowledge that the fight of " L " Battery at Nèry will ever be remembered as an example of how discipline and courage can turn disaster into victory.

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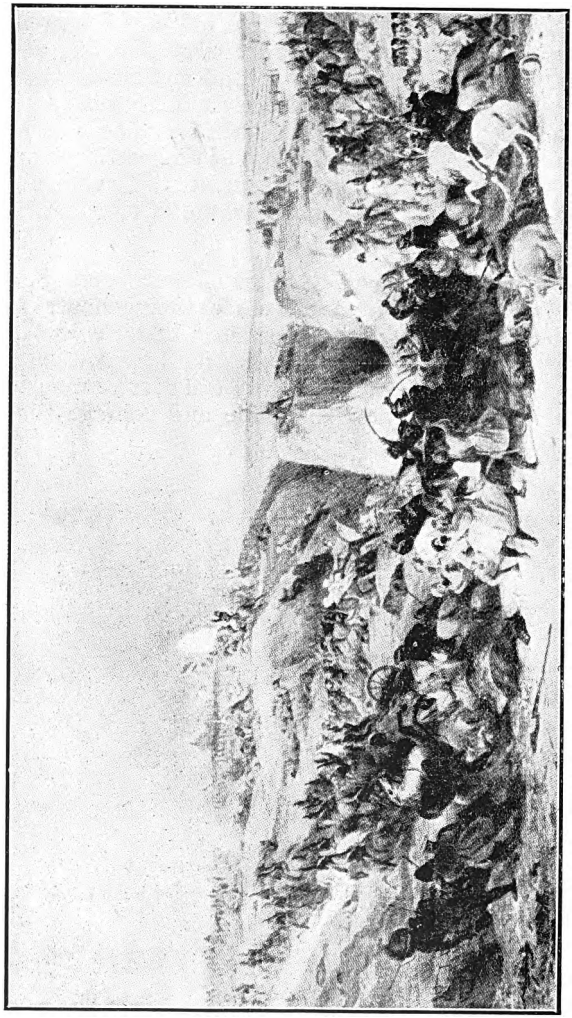

THE EAGLE TROOP AT THE BATTLE OF HYDERABAD.

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"N"

(The Eagle Troop)

BATTERY R.H.A.

Although the official sanction for the use of sub-titles by certain batteries of artillery was not granted until 1926, as far back as 1843 N Battery R.H.A. originally received authority from the Governor-General of India to bear an eagle on its appointments as a special honour. At that time the battery, which had been raised in 1811, was the First Troop of Bombay Horse Artillery and the title of "The Eagle Troop" has been retained ever since it was won at the battle of Hyderabad, Scinde.

The battery had been engaged in the Deccan campaign of 1817, the Arabian campaign of 1821 and the 1st Afghan War, and on 22nd March 1843 it joined Sir Charles Napier's small force near Hyderabad (Scinde) after a forced march in terrible heat. Two days later the British force of about 5,000 men and 17 guns advanced to meet the Baluchis who were in great strength under a clever leader, Shere Mahomed. After a ten mile march the enemy were found to be holding a strongly entrenched position with the front and both flanks protected by deep and steep-sided nullahs.

By 9 a.m. the British force had been drawn up facing this truly formidable position and the Bombay Horse Artillery under Captain (Brevet Major) J. T. Leslie, immediately started to move towards the enemy's right. One of the Battery's officers, Lieut. Smith, reconnoitered the nullah in an attempt to find a way across for his guns, but he was shot down by the enemy who were in ambush. Meanwhile the battery, though without escort, was engaging the masses of enemy infantry with a most destructive

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oblique fire, to avoid which the Baluchis edged away to their left and were soon thrown into confusion.

The infantry, led by the 22nd Regiment (The Cheshire Regiment) advanced at this moment, and while the enemy's attention was thus distracted, Leslie got his guns across the nullah which protected the Baluchis right flank. This crossing of the nullah was a fine achievement for it was strongly opposed by the enemy and the assistance of the Pioneers had to be obtained before a practicable path could be made for even the light guns of the Horse Artillery.

With a few squadrons of cavalry, Leslie's gunners galloped onwards round the enemy's flank, and as the Baluchis streamed back from the front of the 22nd Regiment they were cut down and shot by the cavalry and artillerymen. How complete was the victory is shown by the casualty list, for while the British losses amounted to 270, the enemy lost nearly 8,000 men. It was indeed desperate fighting for the battle lasted for three hours while the thermometer registered 110 degrees in the shade.

It was officially announced by the Governor-General of India that " the battle was decided by the troop of horse artillery and Her Majesty's 22nd Regiment." In consideration of this, an Order in Council directed that the Troop should " hereafter for ever be denominated the First or Leslie's Troop of Horse Artillery and shall, in addition to all other decorations and inscriptions upon its appointments, bear the Eagle." Curiously enough the name " Leslie's Troop " has fallen into disuse, but the Eagle has always been retained unchanged, with its two banners each gripped in a claw and bearing the names " Afghanistan " and " Hyderabad." Until 1863 this sign was worn on the saddlery, on the men's pouches and stamped on the breech of each gun, but this was discontinued when the troop became a battery of the Royal Artillery in 1862. Trumpet banners with the device of the Eagle were also used on ceremonial occasions and to this day the same badge is painted on the battery's guns, limbers and waggons. For

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many years also the word "Hyderabad" was carried on the helmets which formed part of the Bombay Horse Artillery uniform.

The 24th of March is known in N Battery as "Eagle Troop Day" and is always observed as a holiday and celebrated by mounted sports and a dinner, at which the chief guests are representatives of the Cheshire Regiment. Thus the victory of Hyderabad it still considered the outstanding incident in the Battery's history, and certainly the steady advance of unescorted guns across the front of an unshaken enemy is a sufficiently daring manoeuvre to deserve commemoration. But the Eagle Troop claims one other unique honour besides its special mention in 1843, for in 1920 it supplied the gun carriage on which the body of The Unknown Warrior was carried to its last resting place in Westminster Abbey.

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THE MOUNTED ROCKET CORPS.

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"O"

(The Rocket Troop)

BATTERY R.H.A.

Though we usually regard Waterloo as the decisive victory which for ever humbled the power of Napoleon, the memorable battle of Leipsic was perhaps the real turning point in Bonaparte's career. This "Battle of the Nations" was fought on the 18th October, 1813 and the only unit of the British Army present was the Rocket Brigade of the Royal Artillery. It was owing to its success on this occasion that a second Rocket Troop was formed in 1814 and though the older unit was disbanded in 1816 after fighting at Waterloo, its name and traditions are still retained by the present Rocket Troop (O Battery R.H.A.).

Congreve's rockets had been in use during the siege operations at Walcheren (1809) but it was at Leipsic that they were used with effect in mobile warfare. The Rocket Brigade under Captain Bogue was attached to the Body-guard of the Swedish Crown Prince in 1813, but permission was given for the unit to act independently when contact was made with the French Army before Leipsic. Captain Bogue was given a squadron of dragoons as escort and immediately attacked the village of Paunsdorff which was then occupied by five enemy battalions. The rockets, with their noisy and visible flight, produced so great a moral effect on the defenders of the village that they speedily evacuated the place and began to retreat. Captain Bogue seized this opportunity to charge at the head of his dragoons and so demoralised were the French that the whole force, amounting to nearly 3,000 men, surrendered to the Rocket Brigade. The gallant Bogue was killed almost immediately afterwards and was buried near the

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battlefield at Taucha where a monument to his memory was erected. In commemoration of their services on this occasion, permission was given for the word "Leipsic" to be borne on the helmets and appointments of the Rocket Troops both First and Second.

This success at Leipsic undoubtedly led to the formation of another rocket troop in England but it was the Leipsic troop which distinguished itself at Waterloo. The Duke of Wellington had no faith in rockets for he insisted on the Rocket Troop being equipped with guns as any other Horse Artillery unit, and it was only after the personal entreaty of Major Whinyates (who had succeeded Bogue) that a proportion of twelve pounder rockets was retained. The Rocket Troop had therefore 800 of these weapons at Waterloo and right gallantly were they used. After taking part in the retreat from Quatre Bras where rockets were used with effect, Whinyates' Troop came into action just to the British left of the main road near La Haye Sainte. A portion of the battery under Captain Dansey was sent forward near the farmhouse and proceeded to fire their novel projectiles, but in face of the French infantry advance. this party fell back. Captain Dansey being severely wounded, the command devolved on Sergt. Dunnett who waited until an enemy column was abreast of him and then calmly proceeded to fire the remainder of his rockets into the mass of infantry. The effect was instantaneous and the French fell back, nor did they resume their advance until lack of ammunition forced Sergt. Dunnett's gallant party to retire.

Meanwhile the remainder of Whinyates' Rocket Troop was in action near La Haye Sainte where the Battery Commander was wounded, as was also Lieut. Strangways. So severe were the latter's injuries that the surgeon gave no hope of his recovery and the gallant subaltern asked that he should be "allowed to die near his gun." He was later removed to the village of Waterloo and afterwards to Brussels where, to the astonishment of the doctors, he eventually recovered.

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It is impossible to estimate with any accuracy the effects of Congreve's rockets as compared with round shot, but it is evident that the former were but sparingly used at Waterloo for the Rocket Troop fired 309 shot, 236 spherical case, 15 common case and only 52 rockets. Undoubtedly the rocket was an inaccurate weapon and one which depended for its success chiefly on its moral effect against undisciplined troops.

For some unexplained reason, it was Whinyates' (2nd) Rocket Troop which had fought so well at Leipsic and Waterloo, that was selected for reduction in 1816 and not the 1st Troop, which indeed had seen no active service. But the traditions of the unit which so ably represented Britain at Leipsic and fought so gallantly at Waterloo are to-day in the safe keeping of O Battery, R.H.A.

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The Sphinx Batteries

"F" (SPHINX) BATTERY, R.H.A.
81st (SPHINX) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.
2nd (SPHINX) MEDIUM BATTERY, R.A.
2nd (SPHINX) HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

At a time when the relationship between Egypt and the British Empire is becoming a matter of such concern, it is interesting to recall the glorious part played by the Royal Artillery in the campaign of 1800-01 when the French were driven from the land of the Pharoahs. The four batteries which to-day commemorate these successful operations by the distinctive title of "Sphinx," are representative of Horse, Field, Medium and Heavy Artillery so that the honours of the campaign are well distributed among the branches of the Regiment.

The campaign in Egypt from the Gunners' point of view is a record of immense difficulties which were overcome by the skill and ingenuity of the artillerymen themselves. Many such troubles must necessarily occur to any overseas expedition but others were caused by almost incredible want of foresight and organisation on the part of the authorities at Home. Companies were hastily brought up to strength by posting officers and men from other units at the last moment, and when at the end of May 1800, the force finally sailed, the equipment for its 16 light six pounder guns was far from complete. After an unsuccessful attack on Ferrol and delays at Lisbon and Malta, the force disembarked at Aboukir on 8th March, 1801.

During the period of waiting at Lisbon and Malta, every effort had been made to remedy the defects in the equipment of the artillery. Light three pounders were obtained, alterations were made to the six pounders to enable them to be used as Horse Artillery guns, disembarkation was

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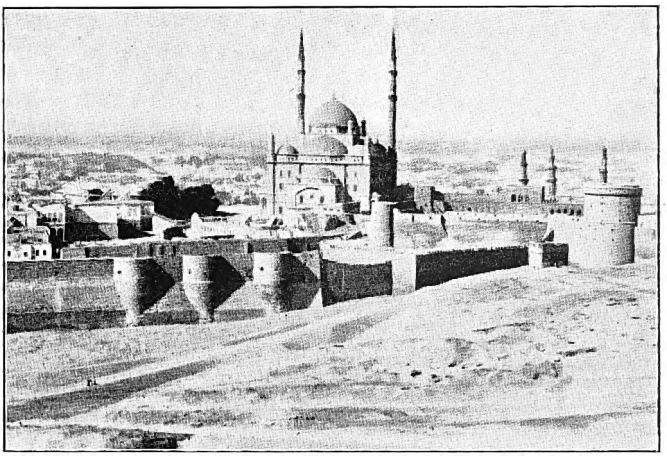
practised, harness was completely overhauled and refitted, special "horse-barrows" for the carriage of guns and ammunition were devised, and timber for mounting guns was prepared. All this should have been seen to before the expedition sailed but such matters had to be dealt with on the spot without the aid of proper tools or skilled workmen.

Thanks to the energy and forethought of General Lawson, who commanded the Artillery, the landing, though



THE CIDADEL, CAIRO.

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strongly opposed by the French, was successfully carried out. After the memorable battle of Alexandria had been won, the British advanced and proceeded to capture the various enemy strongholds one by one. Then came the difficulty of moving the guns over the desert and the entire means of transport had to be reorganised. The carriages and waggons issued were quite useless and had to be reconstructed while improvised mountings were made to enable guns to work with cavalry. Heavy guns were dragged over the sand while arrangements were made to

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use camel transport for ammunition. Naval twenty-four pounders were landed, loaded on barges and conveyed up the Nile and no obstacle seemed too great for the artillery to overcome. In spite of the patched-up carriages, improvised mountings and lack of horses, the guns were brought into action whenever wanted and were served with an accuracy which brought special praise from the Commander-in-Chief.

An outstanding episode in the campaign was the attack on Cairo. The difficulties of getting the heavy guns into position were enormous but the city was compelled to surrender on 28th June, 1801, with nearly 14,000 French troops. By 2nd of September the enemy garrison of Alexandria (11,000 strong) surrendered after a siege remarkable for the accuracy of the besieger's artillery fire. Time after time the British shot struck the enemy's works at exactly the same place until the wall collapsed into the ditch. The guns of the defence were dismounted and French infantry driven from the forts so that the attacking infantry had their path made easy. The spoil which fell into the hands of the British was considerable and included 1251 guns, while the French army was compelled to evacuate Egypt.

It is generally admitted that the success of the expedition was only made possible by the skill and exertions of the artillerymen who triumphed over every difficulty whether due to trying climate, sandy desert or inadequate equipment. To mark their achievements in Egypt, the most unusual procedure was adopted of granting permission in General Orders for the officers and men of the Royal Artillery to bear a badge of the Sphinx together with the word "Egypt" on their regimental caps. This honour was made a personal one and was granted only to those Gunners who had served in the campaign. The infantry were permitted to inscribe "Egypt" on their colours, but the honour to the Gunners was given to individuals and not to batteries. The comparatively recent award of the title of "Sphinx" to the artillery units engaged in Egypt is therefore peculiarly appropriate.

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The Minden Batteries

2nd (MINDEN) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.
9th (MINDEN) HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

Although it is well known that "Minden Day" is kept every year by several British infantry regiments, the fact that two batteries (2nd Field and 9th Heavy) also served in that memorable action is not so generally known. In fact it was due no less to the skill of the Gunners than to the steadiness of the Line that the victory was won, and the battle is also of interest since it was on this occasion that the advantages of a mobile field artillery became apparent.

The Seven Years War broke out in 1756 between England and Prussia on the one hand, and France, Austria, Russia, Saxony and Sweden on the other. In 1757 the British sent troops to support their ally on the continent, and it was this Anglo-Prussian army, commanded by Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, which fought the French at Minden. On the 1st of August, 1759, the enemy under M. de Contades were drawn up under the guns of the fortress of Minden, while the Allies were encamped quite close. The French advanced to the attack in the early morning, hoping to find Prince Ferdinand's troops scattered and unprepared, but actually the Allies themselves were forming up to attack when contact was made. The French took up a position protected by the fire of the guns of the fortress, and these played heavily on the British troops as they advanced.

The British artillery consisted of sixteen 12-pounders, six 6-pounders, and six howitzers, in addition to the twelve 6-pounders belonging to the six British infantry regiments as battalion guns. The whole of the artillery, other than these battalion guns, was commanded by Captain Phillips,

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CAPTAIN PHILLIPS, R.A.

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and three companies of the Regiment manned the guns (the 4th, 5th and 8th, all of the 1st Battalion). Ten medium 12-pounders, known as the Heavy Brigade, were so well handled by the 5th and 8th Companies that they first moved independently to the front and silenced thirty French guns before taking up another position, from which they were able to complete the rout of the French cavalry, already repulsed by the undaunted advance of the British infantry. Seeing that the Saxons were advancing against the hard pressed infantry, Captain McBean turned the fire of his 12-pounders on to the attackers, with such effect that the enemy were driven back in confusion. Once more the British artillery advanced, and by their fire alone prevented the flying French from re-entering their camp. The enemy were completely routed, with a loss of nearly 8,000 men, and though the full fruits of victory did not fall to the victors, owing to the failure of the cavalry to carry out a vigorous pursuit, yet the success was of great importance. Prince Ferdinand fully realised the praise that was due to the artillery, and they were specially mentioned in his General Order after the battle, while gratuities in money were paid to the four senior Gunner officers as a special mark of esteem.

It was the bold and skilful handling of the British guns at Minden which first showed the advantages to be gained by grouping the artillery under independent command and making it mobile. The system of battalion guns was doomed from this moment, and though it was many years before the field artillery was thoroughly organised on a sound basis, yet Minden showed that the custom of making the guns conform exactly to the movements of the infantry was entirely wrong. Here in fact was born the germ of the idea whereby field artillery was enabled in later years to take advantage of its range to inflict losses on the enemy while out of the zone of small arm fire, and this was only possible when the guns were made mobile and no longer remained inseparably attached to the infantry regiments.

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It will be seen, therefore, that Minden was a battle to be remembered, not only for the gallantry displayed by the British troops, but also on account of the important development in artillery tactics to which it gave rise. Only two of the batteries which fought at Minden exist to-day, and these (2nd Field Battery and 9th Heavy Battery) may well be proud to have belonged to that band of gallant men who did so much to increase the already high reputation of the British Soldier on the Continent 170 years ago.

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The Dragon Batteries

P (DRAGON TROOP) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.
48th (DRAGON) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.
50th (DRAGON) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.
51st (DRAGON) FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The four batteries which are entitled to the sub-title " Dragon " are those units of the Madras Artillery which were awarded the special privilege of bearing an imperial golden dragon on their appointments, together with the word " China," in recognition of their valuable services during the first China War of 1841. These batteries were then designated C Troop, Madras Horse Artillery, B and C Companies of the 2nd Battalion and D Company of the 3rd Battalion, Madras Artillery. The difficulties overcome by the artillery in this campaign were certainly unusual, and in many cases guns had to be dragged for miles through swamps by man power alone.

In consequence of numerous acts of aggression by the Chinese, a British naval and military force was assembled under Sir Hugh Gough early in 1841, and on 25th May attacked Canton. B and C Companies of the 2nd Battalion Madras Artillery were included in this expedition, and were armed with four 12-pounder howitzers, four 9-pounder guns, and four 5½-inch mortars. The whole night was spent in getting these pieces ashore, and the greatest difficulties had to be overcome in dragging them over the flooded fields for the attack on the forts to the north of the city. After a steady and remarkably accurate bombardment by the artillery, these forts were stormed by the British, who then prepared to attack Canton. Another hard night's work was required to get the guns ready for

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the assault, but before the signal to open fire was given, the enemy asked for a truce, and were eventually permitted to evacuate the city on payment of a fine of six million dollars.

Though present, the Madras gunners took no part in the capture of Amoy on the 26th August, but landed for the attack on Ting-Hae and Chusan in early October, where they again distinguished themselves by their indefatigable energy in dragging the clumsy guns into a position from which the infantry attack could be supported. The British then landed and attacked the fortified city of Chinhai, which was defended by several thousand Chinese troops with 150 guns. Here again the Madras gunners found that their chief trouble lay in getting the guns over the roadless country, but they were able to inflict heavy losses on the enemy by the rapid and accurate fire of 12-pounder howitzers, 9-pounder guns and rockets. This fire was kept up until the infantry actually advanced to the assault, and undoubtedly contributed greatly to the collapse of the defence, for the Chinese had fought well all that day. Later the city of Ningpo, further up the river, was captured without resistance.

The Madras Artillery took a leading part in the severe fighting which occurred during the repulse of the Chinese attack on Ningpo on the 10th March, 1842, while a detachment took part in the affair at Tsehee, where a 3-pounder gun did great execution. Then followed the storming of Chapo on the 8th of May, 1842, when 92 guns were captured and heavy losses were inflicted on the Chinese, who fought most stubbornly. Here the gunners were able to use some Chinese ponies to assist them in moving the guns, and were thus able to bring them into action in support of the infantry. In the capture of Woosung and Shanghai in July, C Troop Madras Horse Artillery had a particularly arduous time in marching fourteen miles in great heat, and for most of the way the detachment had to drag the 3-pounders themselves, owing to the failure of the harness for the ponies. On the 21st July there was further fighting,

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when the fortified city of Chin-Keang was stormed, and once again the Horse Artillery howitzers were dragged by the men, though ponies were available for the 3-pounders, which were brought into action only 400 yards from the enemy, where their fire was most effective. Two 12-pdr. howitzers were taken up the river in boats, and were landed under a tremendous fire from the Chinese on the city walls. The gunners, without pausing to get their guns into action, joined the infantry and scaled the walls, driving the enemy back until all resistance ceased. This was the last engagement of the war, for the Chinese agreed to our peace terms on the 29th August, 1842.

The difficulty of moving guns over sodden ground in such a climate was increased by the unsuitable equipment provided, and the determination and endurance shown by the batteries of the Madras Artillery in the China War amply justified the special honours awarded to them.

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MAJOR NORMAN RAMSAY, R.A.

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"H"
(Ramsay's Troop)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

It is a curious fact that though Major W. Norman Ramsay was perhaps one of the best known Gunner officers of his time, and his name is now officially linked with that of the battery he commanded at Waterloo, he first became famous for an exploit which concerned another unit altogether. The story of Norman Ramsay and his celebrated charge at Fuentes d'Onoro is so well known that his other services are sometimes forgotten.

H Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, was originally raised at Woolwich by Captain A. Macdonald in 1801, its establishment being five officers, 14 n.c.o.'s, 75 gunners, 46 drivers, and 142 horses. In July 1809 it was stationed at Warley in Essex, when it was suddenly ordered to accompany the expedition to Walcheren. Disembarking at Ter Veer on 30th July, a section of the troop took part in the investment and capture of that village, but there being little use for horse artillery during the siege operations round Flushing, the battery re-embarked for England in August.

It was not until 1815 that Major Norman Ramsay joined the troop, having exchanged into it in order not to miss the chance of active service which Napoleon's arrival in France portended. He was an exceptional officer, beloved by his men and respected by his seniors, for he combined a singular sweetness of disposition with a character of great firmness and undaunted courage. He had served with Bull's Troop (now I Battery, R.H.A.) throughout the greater part of the Peninsular War, and the story of his gallantry at Fuentes d'Onoro was known throughout the

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army. During that campaign he had most improperly been placed in arrest by order of the Duke of Wellington, for a mistake which was certainly not his fault, and after he had been released without further action being taken, he had never complained, though the injustice of the incident was bitterly resented.

At Waterloo, H Troop was at first in reserve, but was speedily brought into line opposite Hugomont, to repulse the attacks of the French cavalry. It was during the furious fighting which developed at that time that the troop suffered most of its heavy losses, for French riflemen crept up close to the guns and picked off the gunners at close range. The troop suffered such heavy casualties that it was impossible to keep the guns in action, and volunteers came forward from Major Bull's troop on the right to assist in manning H Troop's guns. At this time, too, the gallant Ramsay was killed, and Captain Macdonald, Lieutenant Brereton and Lieutenant Robe were wounded, thus leaving Lieutenant Sandilands as the only officer left to fight the guns. Yet the troop remained in action and continued its fire, and was able to assist in the repulse of the final attack by the Imperial Guard.

Major Ramsay was buried by his men near the guns during a lull in the fighting. Sir Augustus Frazer, who commanded the Horse Artillery of the Army, and was a great friend of Norman Ramsay's, was present at the hurried burial, and he records that the men of the Troop wept as they laid their commander in the shallow grave. Three weeks later Sir Augustus Frazer returned to the battlefield, and aided by a sergeant of H Troop, found the grave, disinterred the body, and had it conveyed to Ostend, and thence to Scotland, where it found a permanent resting-place.

After the collapse of the French at Waterloo, H Troop accompanied the Allied Army to Paris, and was selected to remain in France under Captain May as part of the Army of Occupation. In 1816, in pursuance of a most irritating policy of changing the designation of units for no real

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reason, the Troop discarded " H " for " G," but three years later it was reduced, owing to the financial stringency which inevitably occurs after a successful campaign. It was indeed sad that a unit with such a fine record should suffer reduction, but fortunately the Troop was re-formed on the 1st of December, 1857, under Captain Newton, as G Troop R.H.A., and in 1926 became H Field Battery R.A.

Norman Ramsay was undoubtedly a remarkable character, who won the esteem and affection of all with whom he served, and he was one of the most efficient gunner officers at a time when the Regiment included many brilliant soldiers in its ranks. It is right, therefore, that his name should not be forgotten by the battery he commanded so gallantly at Waterloo.

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"Q"
(Sanna's Post)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

Many of the distinctive titles awarded to individual batteries commemorate great victories, others honour the names of bygone commanding officers under whom the units have won fame, but at least three are unique in recalling disasters to British arms. Yet the disaster which gave "Q" Field Battery, R.A. the right to the title "Sanna's Post" is well worthy of remembrance, for it is one long story of gallantry under the most difficult conditions.

During the South African War, and shortly after the occupation of Bloomfontein, a British column of Mounted Infantry, Cavalry and Horse Artillery ("U" and "Q" Batteries) was retiring towards the main body of the army with a wagon convoy of stores. Having crossed the Modder River and halted for the night of 30th March, 1900, the column next morning continued its retirement westward toward Pretorius Farm, with the convoy in front,and leaving a rear-guard of mounted infantry to hold the Modder River crossings. The ox wagons, driven by natives, streamed across the plain, followed by U and Q batteries, with the artillery escort of Robert's Horse behind. The road at Pretorius Farm descended sharply into a dry river bed, which was completely hidden from view, but as each vehicle lumbered down the slope it was quietly taken possession of by armed Boers, who were in occupation of the whole nullah.

So cleverly was the ambush laid that the leading gun of U Battery was itself in the river bed before a trap was even suspected. A gunner most gallantly gave the alarm, though at the price of his life. U Battery's position was hopeless from the start, for all its teams were shot down

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where they stood, except that of one gun, which wheeled about and joined Q Battery. This Battery quickly disengaged from the column and retired at a gallop under a murderous rifle fire at point blank range, and though one gun and two wagons were overturned and abandoned,

MAJOR E. J. PHIPPS-HORNBY, V.C., R.A.

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yet six guns were got into action near Sanna's Post Station buildings, where they were joined by Robert's Horse.

The situation was now desperate, but the Boers were prevented from advancing from the river bed by the steady shrapnel fire from the 12-pounders. This enabled the General to make his plans to meet the situation, but only at a dreadful cost to the gunners, who fell fast beside their

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unshielded guns. Soon only two officers and two men were left at the guns, one of which was kept in action by Lieutenant Peck single-handed. Though ammunition had to be carried to the guns by hand over the bullet-swept veldt, yet the battery maintained its steady fire until the order to retire was given.

To bring up teams to the exposed position was hopeless, so Major Phipps-Hornby decided to run back by hand to the scanty shelter of the station buildings. Two guns were withdrawn about 40 yards by eight gunners, while volunteers from Robert's Horse and the Mounted Infantry helped to bring in three more (including the one of U Battery's), together with a wagon and a wagon limber. One gun and limber had to be abandoned, for there were no horses with which to get it away, even if it could have been run back under cover. Behind the station buildings the teams hooked in, and as the battery trotted back, still under heavy fire, the Mounted Infantry rose and cheered. No greater tribute to the gallantry of the gunners could have been paid, nor could any have been more appreciated.

That Sanna's Post was a disaster was obvious, but though the whole convoy, seven guns, and over 400 prisoners remained in the enemy's hands, yet the fact that the bulk of the British column escaped at all was due very largely to the self-sacrificing gallantry of Q Battery. Major E. J. Phipps-Hornby (the Battery Commander) received the Victoria Cross, as also did Sergeant C. Parker, Gunner Isaac Lodge and Driver H. H. Glasock, these three being selected by the vote of their own comrades as being the most worthy recipients of the decoration, which was intended to honour the whole unit for its courage and devotion to duty. Lieutenant F. A. Maxwell, of the Indian Army, who assisted in the rescue of the guns, was also given the same coveted medal for his conduct on this occasion.

The engagement at Sanna's Post—disaster though it was—will always be remembered with honour in the Regiment, for there the bravery and self-sacrifice of gallant men conquered adversity.

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"T"

(Shah Sujah's Troop)

FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The circumstances under which "T" Field Battery was originally raised were certainly unusual, for it was composed of Indian soldiers, under British officers, for the service of a foreign Prince. It was recruited at Delhi in September 1838, as a unit of the army being collected by Shah Sujah, who after an exile of thirty years in India, was a claimant to the throne of Afghanistan. The British had decided to support his cause by force of arms, and the 6,000 troops raised for his service were reinforced by a large British army, which marched on Kabul to depose Dost Mahommed.

The Troop was a double one, and was commanded by Captain W. Anderson of the Bengal Artillery, assisted by Lieutenants G. L. Cooper and F. Turner. So hurriedly was it raised and equipped that it was almost untrained when it proceeded with the Bengal force, via Ferozepore, Sukkur and the Bolan Pass to Quetta at the end of 1838. During that long and weary journey the training of the men was continued, and from April until October, 1839, the troop remained at Quetta, learning to handle its ten brass 6-pounders and two brass 12-pounder howitzers. Lieut. Cooper's half troop took part in the storming of Khelat by General Wiltshire's column, while the other half troop marched with General Nott to Kandahar. Early in 1840 the troop was re-united at the latter place, and assisted some of Shah Sujah's cavalry to defeat 3,000 Afghans at Lazee. Another affair on the 16th May brought a complimentary order from General Nott on the manner in which the troop had behaved, while Lieut. Cooper's half troop

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was present at the recapture of Khelat in November. During 1841 the troop took part in four actions with the enemy, and in each case was selected for special mention.

The Troop had already established an excellent reputation, and this was greatly increased by its behaviour at the battle of the Urgumlab river on the 12th of January, 1842, and at the defeat of 12,000 tribesmen on the 9th of March. That same month two of Captain Anderson's guns were in action at Baba Wallah, and the whole troop fought under General Nott on the 29th of May. While Lieut. Cooper's half troop returned to India via Quetta, Lieut. Turner's command accompanied General Nott's army to Kabul, taking part in the affair at Gome and the capture of Ghanzi. On the 23rd of December Captain Anderson marched into Ferozepore with his six guns, and both half troops were definitely united and transferred to the Company's service as the 5th Troop 1st Brigade Bengal Horse Artillery, since Shah Sujah had been murdered on the 5th of January, 1842. Captain Anderson was gazetted Brevet-Major and C.B. for his services.

On the 21st December, 1845, the troop, under Captain E. F. Day, took part with General Littler's force in the battle of Ferozeshah against the Sikhs. Next year the troop was employed as Foot Artillery with 12-pounder guns at the battle of Sabraon, but they took over their own 6-pounders again in time to take part in the pursuit of the Sikh army across the Sutlej. Six years later the troop was temporarily equipped with elephants for the transport of their guns and ammunition in the hilly Hazara district—surely a novel outfit for Horse Artillery !

On the outbreak of the Mutiny the troop moved from Hoshiapore to Jullunder, and when the native infantry and cavalry mutinied at this station, the gunners of Shah Sujah's troop promptly fired on them without waiting for orders or for the arrival of their British officers. Two guns were left to garrison the station, while the rest of the troop joined the British army before Delhi, where they manned a battery of mortars throughout the siege. After

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the fall of the city the troop was re-equipped as Horse Artillery and was engaged in Rohilcund. Every man who was at Delhi received the Order of Merit and Lieut. Renney who was in command was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In June 1859 the native personnel of the troop were pensioned or transferred, and their places taken by European gunners and drivers. In 1861 the troop was transferred to the Royal Artillery as "E" Troop, 2nd Brigade, R.H.A., and in 1924 became "T" Field Battery, R.A. When it is considered how hurriedly the men of the troop were enlisted and trained, their endurance and steadiness in Afghanistan were extraordinary, and were equalled only by their loyalty in the Mutiny. If Shah Sujah had been worthy of such troops, he would have retained the throne for which they fought so gallantly on his behalf.

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4th
(Coles Kop)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

Very few people in this country have any idea where or what Coles Kop is, and still fewer would associate it with a wonderful feat of arms of which the 4th Field Battery, R.A., will always justly be proud. The ingenuity, determination and skill which were displayed in conquering the natural difficulties of this precipitous South African hill are well worthy of the distinction conferred on the battery by the special title which it now bears.

In January, 1900, the 4th Field Battery was commanded by Major A. E. A. Butcher, R.F.A., and was part of the force under General French, operating round Colesberg in South Africa. The British, with comparatively small forces, were endeavouring to hold off a considerable force of Boers, under Schoeman. The latter occupied a strong position on the hills round the little town, but this was dominated by a steep peak called Coles Kop. This curious hill is 600 feet high, with sides almost perpendicular in places, and nowhere at a slope of less than 30 degrees. Covered with boulders, this hill was occupied by the Boers, and though it was used as a look-out station by British scouts, to climb it was a difficult task even for an active man. Major Butcher, however, after a careful reconnaissance, determined to get one of his 15-pounder guns on to the summit of Coles Kop, and immediately sought the assistance of the Royal Engineers and the Essex Regiment. So carefully were his preparations made, and so well did the troops work, that the gun was in action on the top of the peak in three and a half hours.

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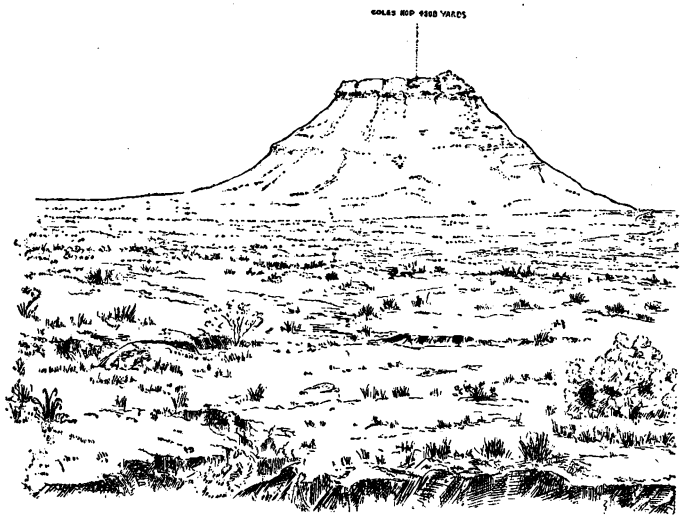
Then arose the problem of getting up ammunition for the gun and rations for the detachment. This was perhaps an even more difficult task than moving the piece itself, and it was solved in a most ingenious way. What was in effect an aerial ropeway was constructed out of steel rails and stout wire. The rails were wedged into rocks so as to form upright standards, while the wire was



COLES KOP.

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led over pulleys fixed to them. Loads up to 30 pounds in weight were slung on this wire rope and hauled up the hillside, so that when full carriers ascended, empty ones descended. Such a method of conveying stores over difficult ground was at that time a novelty, though twenty years later a 19 mile cableway of similar design was constructed over the Khyber Pass.

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At six o'clock next morning (January 12th) the 15-pdr. on the summit of Coles Kop opened fire on the Boer laagers, with immediate effect. The enemy was taken completely by surprise, since they had imagined that they were well out of field gun range. Practically all the main Boer encampments were shelled in turn, and not only were heavy casualties caused to men and animals, but the enemy were compelled to move their positions to more distant and less suitable localities. The moral effect of the bombardment was greatly increased by the adoption of a clever ruse by the resourceful Major Butcher, for at the moment when the gun on Coles Kop fired a shell, another 15-pdr. on the plain at the foot of the hill was also discharged, so that the bewildered Boers were for some time completely deceived as to where the shrapnel was coming from ; nor were the gunners satisfied with this, for within a day or two they had mounted a second gun on the summit of Coles Kop, and the bombardment of the Boer positions proceeded with greater effect than ever. It must have been most encouraging for the British troops to see the burghers outwitted, especially as the Boer prided himself particularly on his " slimness."

Major Butcher, the originator of the ingenious aerial ropeway, which solved the difficulty of getting stores to the summit of the peak, received the D.S.O. for his services, and after changing his name to Holland, became well-known as Commandant of the Royal Military Academy just before the Great War. He saw distinguished service in France, and by 1918 was Commander of the 1st Corps.

There is no doubt that the success of General French's operations round Colesberg was greatly facilitated by the field guns from Coles Kop, and the results of 4th Field Battery's exploit were of the greatest value to the British cause.

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7th
(Sandham's Company)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The success of the British Artillery at the battle of Minden (1759) showed Europe what a decisive effect could be obtained by the use of mobile and boldly handled guns in co-operation with other arms. The lesson was not missed in England and a Third Battalion was added to the Royal Regiment of Artillery, of which No. 9 Company was later known as Sandham's. The early career of this unit was so varied that much of the contemporary history of British arms appears in its record.

From 1791 till 1802, the battery served in the West Indies where it took part in the capture of Tobago, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, Trinidad and Porto Rico. Though the fighting during these years caused many casualities, the losses from sickness were truly appalling and none but first class troops could long retain their morale in that deadly climate. After taking part in the operations in Surinam in 1799, the battery formed part of the expedition against Copenhagen in 1807. It was chiefly due to the excellent work of the artillery that the city surrendered after sustaining a tremendous bombardment lasting two days and a night and that the object of the expedition was achieved in the capture of the Danish fleet with all its valuable stores.

Two years later the battery was again on service at Walcheren and the siege of Flushing. Landing at Ter Veer on the 8th of August, 1809, the unit suffered all the miseries of that ill-managed campaign which, though crowned with partial success in the attainment of the immediate objective, showed how faulty were the arrangements for the supply

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of food, stores and medical comforts for the troops, while the losses from disease were very heavy. In fact the survivors of the expedition were so fever ridden that they were unfit for service for some time and this probably explains why the battery was not engaged in the Peninsula.

Captain Charles F. Sandham assumed command of the battery in 1814 and next year the unit formed part of the divisional artillery with the 1st British Division in Belgium under the Duke of Wellington. That the battery was then in an exceptionally efficient state is shown by the fact that the Duke, who seldom gave praise and who was admittedly rather prejudiced against the artillery, wrote to convey his " unqualified approbation " of its appearance on parade during an official inspection. In those days the field batteries were often indifferently horsed, but on this occasion Captain Sandham's nine pounder field battery was the envy even of the British Horse Artillery Troops and these were undoubtedly considered the best equipped of any artillery units in Europe at that time.

When Napoleon crossed the frontier in June, 1815, the British army started to concentrate, and on 16th June, after a forced march lasting fifteen hours, the 1st Division with its artillery arrived at Quatre Bras in time to extricate Picton's 5th Division and to cover its retirement to Waterloo. On the 18th June, the battery was in action just in front of the infantry and nearly midway between La Haye Sainte and Hugomont. Shortly before noon, the French infantry columns were seen to be advancing towards the latter farm and Sandham's battery had the distinction of firing the first round from the Allied artillery. Details of the action as far as it concerns the battery are hard to find, but it is known that it fired 1100 rounds during the day, which is a high proportion of the total of 10,400 rounds fired by all 13 British batteries engaged. So heavy indeed was the firing that some of the guns were actually rendered unserviceable as a result. The battery engaged enemy infantry and cavalry whenever seen, but was expressly

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forbidden to answer the French artillery though the latter caused them heavy losses. At one time the Duke noticed that an enemy gun had been dismounted by a British round shot and suspecting Captain Sandham's battery of having fired it, thus disobeying orders, he sent an officer to place the battery commander in arrest. Captain Sandham, however, was able to convince the A.D.C. that his battery had not been responsible and years afterwards it was proved to have been Captain Mercer's Troop which had fired the shot.

After such a career it seems incredible that Sandham's Company should have been reduced in 1819 when others with little war service were retained. In 1848 the Company was re-formed and fought most gallantly in the Crimea, South Africa and in the Great War and exists to-day as the 7th Field Battery.

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8th
(Strange's)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 8th Field Battery takes its title from the exploit of Lieut. T. B. Strange with a section of the battery in the Indian Mutiny. During the furious fighting which occurred in that critical campaign, it was proved time after time that the bold handling of well trained artillery had a great moral effect on the mutineers and it was for a striking incident of this nature that the battery won its special designation.

On the 8th September, 1857, Captain J. R. Gibbons's 5th Company, 12th Battalion, R.A., embarked on the "Hydaspes" for India. After disembarking at Calcutta in December the company formed Q Field Battery and joined Sir Colin Campbell's Army of Oudh in time to assist at the final capture of Lucknow. The battery was in action on the 5th of March, 1858, at the passage of the Gumti and formed part of Outram's Division during the steady advance round the north of the city. By the 21st of March the enemy had been driven out after three weeks' bitter street fighting, during which time the troops had had practically no rest.

After a short respite the battery was again in action with Sir Hope Grant's column at Simri and suffered heavily from sunstroke. In spite of the heat of an Indian summer, the British troops continued the campaign against scattered bodies of rebels and Q Field Battery again distinguished itself on the 12th of June at Newabgunge where it silenced the enemy's guns by a rapid and accurate fire. It was after this engagement that Lieut Strange joined the battery and took over the command of a detached section which

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fought under Brigadier Horsford at Sultanpore in August, while the rest of the battery under Captain A. C. Johnson was engaged in the capture of Fyzabad.

In October, Lieut. Strange's section of two 9-pounders was still with Brigadier Horsford's column, which comprised also two guns of F Troop R.H.A. and about 1440 cavalry and infantry. The force marched from Sultanpore on October 20th to seek out and engage a rebel detachment of 4200 men with six guns, which was reported to be near Doadpore. This village was found to be clear of the retreating mutineers and the Brigadier determined on a vigorous pursuit with his four guns and a small cavalry escort while the bulk of his mounted men carried out a wide turning movement. Following a rough track through the jungle, the British soon came up with small parties of the enemy but these were scattered by a few rounds from the guns at close range. Though the advance was continued at full speed, Lieut. Strange managed to keep his guns well to the front and it was clear that the enemy were not far ahead. Suddenly the British turned a corner of the track and found the road blocked by a gun emplacement built across it. While the cavalry moved to a flank to find a way through the jungle, Q Field Battery decided to gallop over the obstacle. Though the leaders fell at the first attempt a second was more successful, and in a few minutes Lieut. Strange with his two guns and ammunition waggons was leading the pursuit well ahead of the cavalry !

Still unsupported by other troops, Lieut. Strange suddenly came upon two of the enemy's guns, one limbered up and the other loaded and ready to fire. Without the slightest hesitation, Q Battery charged and their subaltern cut down the rebel leader as he prepared to fire. The sepoys fled, one gun was captured, and later when the cavalry came up, the second gun was found abandoned. These two guns which had belonged to the 2nd Company 7th Battalion Bengal Artillery, bore the mural crown which had been specially awarded to that unit as a battle honour for its distinguished service at Jellalabad in 1841-1842.

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The British then returned to Sultanpore with their trophies after marching 35 miles and killing over 250 mutineers at a trifling cost to themselves.

During the remainder of the winter of 1858 the battery took part in the operations conducted by Sir Hope Grant and up till March of the following year was engaged in numerous skirmishes with the enemy until they had been finally driven into Nepaul and dispersed. The exploit of the battery (which is now 8th Field Battery) at Doadpore was typical of the spirit which overcame all the difficulties of the campaign, and though field guns do not normally lead a pursuit unsupported by other arms, Lieut. Strange and his gunners showed what could be done in an emergency by brave men boldly led.

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9th
(Irish)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 9th Field Battery R.A. was awarded its distinctive title in 1926 to commemorate its direct descent from the Royal Irish Artillery which regiment was incorporated into the Royal Artillery as its 7th Battalion in 1801. Since that date the battery has had a distinguished career, but it is to its previous history while a part of the Irish Artllery that the title refers.

Previous to 1756 all guns in Ireland were stored in various garrisons all over the country and a few gunners, mattrosses and storekeepers were retained to look after the equipment. No regular unit existed and the difficulty of manning these guns in war became so obvious that in 1756 it was decided to raise an artillery unit which would always be available for the service of the guns either of a field army or of the various forts. In that year a party of one subaltern and twenty-four N.C.O.s and men of the Royal Artillery proceeded from Woolwich to Dublin to form the nucleus of the new company which was soon recruited up to its establishemnt of 118. Since the laws against Roman Catholics were still in force, only Protestants were enlisted for service but the company soon became very popular and within four years of its formation it was augmented to a battalion of four companies under the title of the Royal Irish Artillery. While the new regiment was settling into its barracks at Chapel-Izod near Dublin, a " train of Artillery " of 16 pieces was hurriedly despatched to Carrick Fergus to repel a landing made by a French raiding party, but the enemy had re-embarked before the troops could arrive. Not only had the newly-raised companies to be

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trained and equipped, but infantry regiments also had to be instructed in the handling of their battalion guns, so that the increase of the establishment from four to six companies in 1771 was not unexpected.

Up till then the Irish gunners had not served abroad, but in 1775 volunteers came forward for the war in America and two years later the first draft from the regiment was despatched to serve with the British artillery in that country. The behaviour of this party won the particular praise of Major-General Phillips (the C.R.A.), and thirteen years later it was decided to send three complete companies of the Royal Irish Artillery and to increase the establishment of the regiment from six to ten companies. These units were employed on the Continent for a short time but soon moved to the West Indies where they took part in the capture of Guadeloup, Martinique and St. Lucia from the French. Next year three more companies sailed for Flanders and the regiment was increased to twenty companies and an Invalid company, while a large draft and two companies proceeded to the West Indies. In this terrible climate the losses were very heavy and after less than two years only 43 of the original 288 N.C.O.s and men survived.

The year 1798 was a difficult one for the Irish Artillerymen for they were employed on the unpleasant duty of suppressing the rebellion with all the horrors which civil war entails. In spite of the many temptations to join the rebels, only one man of the regiment deserted to the enemy and the conduct of the gunners in general was admirable and was particularly mentioned by General Lake in his despatches after the battle of Vinegar Hill. Detachments of the regiment also fought at Castelbar, Wexford and Gorey alongside their comrades of the British Artillery. No sooner was the rebellion in Ireland crushed than farther drafts were despatched to make good the losses of the companies in the West Indies which were due more to the ravages of disease than to the bullets of the French.

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On the 1st of January, 1801, the union of Great Britain and Ireland came into being and in consequence the need for a separate regiment of Artillery in the latter country vanished. It was decided to reduce the Irish Gunners to a single battalion of 10 companies which on 8th April, 1801, was incorporated into the Royal Artillery as the 7th Battalion. No 4 Company of this new battalion now bears the title of 9th (Irish) Field Battery R.A. and though the battery has since added to its laurels at Corunna during the Waterloo campaign, in Egypt (1882) and during the Great War, it will always recall with pride its origin as a unit of the Royal Irish Artillery.

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15th
(Assaye)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 15th Field Battery can claim to be one of the few units which has been granted permission to bear three separate battle honours on its appointments. Such privileges were very rarely granted and when a battery can prove distinguished service at such engagements as Seringapatam, Assaye and Hyderabad the record is indeed a proud one.

The battery was originally formed in 1755 for service under the East India Company as the 3rd Company Bombay Artillery. Two years later a detachment of the company was engaged at Chandernagore and in 1759, during a period of financial retrenchment, the battery was reduced. Six years later, however, it was re-formed but did not see active service until the Mysore war when it took part in the battle of Sedaishur and the siege of Seringapatam. The services of the Artillerymen in the storming of that immensely strong fortress well merited the praise which they afterwards received and the honour of bearing the name on their appointments.

In the Mahratta War of 1803 the company formed part of the force under Colonel Wellesley which gained the decisive victories of Assaye and Arguam. With an army of 4,500 troops of which only one cavalry and two infantry battalions and the artillery were European, he advanced to attack the Mahratta allies who had mustered 30,000 cavalry and 10,000 regularly disciplined infantry with nearly 100 guns. The enemy occupied a well chosen position with their left resting on the village of Assaye which was defended by artillery. The British formed in two lines with the cavalry in rear and it was decided to advance slowly on

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the right to divert the enemy's attention while the decisive stroke was delivered by the left wing. Unfortunately the 74th Regiment advanced too impetuously and was received by a tremendous artillery fire which not only caused heavy losses among the infantry but which destroyed the bullock teams of their guns moving forward in support. Seizing the opportunity, the famous Mahratta horsemen prepared to charge the shaken infantry but before they could ride home they were met and overwhelmed by the British and native cavalry. While the horsemen pursued the enemy and even attacked the village, the remainder of the British line rallied and advanced with an impetuous charge which drove back the Mahratta infantry in utter rout into the river behind them. An attempt to reform on the opposite bank was frustrated by the British cavalry, and the whole Mahratta army soon dissolved in disorder. The battle cost the enemy 12,000 dead and 98 guns, while the British casualties amounted to 428 killed and 1,138 wounded. Wellesley took up a vigorous pursuit and brought the enemy to bay at Arguam on the 29th September when he again defeated them after a desperate battle which finally broke the Mahratta power.

On the reorganisation of the Bombay Artillery in 1820, the company became the 2nd Company 1st Battalion and in 1843 it took a gallant part in the war in Sind. Commanded by Captain M. F. Willoughby, the battery supported the Cheshire Regiment in their gallant attack on the Baluchis at Hyderabad on the 24th of March, 1843 and advancing across the steep-sided nullah which formed the enemy's first position, it continued to support the infantry by a most accurate and rapid fire. For its services on this occasion the company was permitted to bear the word "Hyderabad" on its appointments, while Willoughby was given a brevet majority and made a C.B.

The second Sikh War of 1848 again brought the company on active service, this time as No. 7 Light Field Battery under Lieut. J. B. Woosnam at Multan. Later in that hard-fought campaign the battery, under Captain Turnbull,

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formed part of Lord Gough's army which defeated the Sikhs so decisively at Gujerat and took part in the vigorous pursuit which led to the surrender of the remnants of the enemy's force. In 1858 the company, under Lieut. Pasley, took part in the expedition to Arabia against Sheikh Othman and was thus not engaged in the Indian Mutiny.

When the East India Company's forces were absorbed into the Royal Army in 1862, the company became the 2nd Battery of the 18th Brigade Royal Artillery and after some further changes in title it was designated the 15th Field Battery R.A. in 1889. Since the battery was in the unusual position of having three distinct battle honours specially granted to it, it was perhaps a difficult matter to select one for its sub-title, but its share in the glorious victory at Assaye in 1803 is certainly worthy of honourable remembrance.

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31st
(Kirkee)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 31st Field Battery was originally raised for the service of the East India Company, on the 13th October, 1797, as the 6th Company Bombay Artillery. In General Orders of the 20th May, 1823, it was granted the special privilege of bearing the word "Kirkee" on its appointments, in commemoration of its gallant conduct at the battle of that name, which was fought during the third Mahratta War.

The situation at Poona in the summer of 1817 was a difficult one. The Mahratta Peishwa was sullen after the signing of the treaty of the 13th June, which required solid guarantees of his peaceful intentions towards the British, and he had openly stated that he would renounce it as soon as the opportunity occurred. He was almost openly inciting his subjects to arm against the British, who were preparing to wage war against the Pindaris, and it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Mahrattas would not long remain neutral. The British Resident at the Peishwa's capital was Mr. Elphinstone—a man of determination and ability—who did all that was possible to postpone the crisis which he realised was approaching.

In October 1817 numbers of Mahratta troops began to collect at Poona, and these were placed so as to surround the cantonments of the British force in the capital. So threatening did their attitude become, and so open were their attempts to tamper with the loyalty of the Bombay Sepoys, that it was reluctantly decided on the last day of the month to move the British troops to the village of Kirkee, some

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two miles distant. The position taken up there was in a loop of the river Moola, and was naturally easy of defence by the weak brigade, which consisted of one European battalion, three native infantry battalions, and the guns of the 6th Company Bombay Artillery, under Lieutenant J. Laurie.

Colonel Burr, who was in command of the British, had a difficult decision to make, for though it seemed rash to attack a large army with his small force, yet he knew the depressing effect of a protracted defence on the morale of native troops, and he did not wish to be hemmed in at Kirkee by the Mahrattas. He therefore sent messengers with a request for reinforcements and awaited events, having determined to take the offensive if the worst came to the worst, in spite of some doubts as to the loyalty of the Sepoys.

On the 5th of November the Peishwa sent troops to surround the British Residency, and Mr. Elphinstone withdrew to Kirkee after a vain protest, while his bungalow and its contents were looted and burned. The Peishwa at once put himself at the head of his army and commenced a distant bombardment of the British troops, who in the meantime had been drawn up with the European infantry in the centre and the guns on the right. The Mahrattas then adopted their usual tactics, and sent bodies of cavalry to work round the British flanks, but to their astonishment instead of awaiting the attack the British advanced and, drove off the horsemen by gun fire and musketry. Indeed so impetuous was the advance, that the 1st Battalion of the 7th Bombay Native Infantry on the left became separated from the rest of the Brigade, and was only rescued with difficulty and under cover of the fire of the guns. At this moment, too, a force of two native battalions, under Major Ford, arrived on the battlefield from Dhapoora, whence they had fought their way in the face of numerous bands of Mahratta horse. Their arrival, coupled with the rallying of the 7th Native Infantry, decided the day, and the enemy retired, leaving the British in possession of the battlefield.

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The Mahratta casualties amounted to over 500, while the British later retired to Kirkee with a loss of 18 killed and 57 wounded. Eight days later reinforcements arrived, and the enemy were found to have dispersed in the night, abandoning their baggage and 18 guns.

The battle of Kirkee is an excellent example of the success which attends the bold handling of disciplined troops. Had Colonel Burr remained at Kirkee on the defensive, to be hemmed in by the Mahrattas, it is doubtful if any of his troops would have escaped. The courage of his wise decision to attack, backed up by the steady gallantry of his men, was responsible for a victory of which the 31st Field Battery may well be proud, for theirs were the only British guns at Kirkee on the 5th of November, 1817.

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35th
(Arracan)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

A glance at the list of battle honours borne by the different batteries of the Royal Artillery will soon convince the enquirer of the aptness of the Regimental Motto " Ubique," for there is hardly any part of the globe which has not at some time witnessed the deeds of Britain's Gunners. Some of the expeditions into almost unknown parts have produced little actual fighting, when measured by the standards of the Great War, but the discipline, endurance and determination required to carry the guns through the difficulties of these minor campaigns are well worthy of honour. The Arracan expedition during the first Burmese war of 1824-26 is a typical example of a little known " side-show," and from it the 35th Field Battery takes its title.

A force consisting of three companies of artillery, two British and six native battalions, with some local levies was assembled at Chittagong in Burma early in 1825. The column was ordered to march to Arracan, some 200 miles distant, and after crossing the mountains to the east, to descend into the valley of the Irrawaddy, where it was to effect a junction with the main army. The artillery included No. 7 Company 2nd Battalion Bengal Artillery, commanded by Captain Hall, and this unit later became 35th Field Battery, R.A.

The difficulties of the expedition were chiefly those usually attendant on a march through thick jungle and among numerous rivers and creeks, though the Burmese were not to be despised as fighting men, and were capable

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of offering a strong opposition. The force had the assistance of a few ships, which were able to sail along the coast and keep in touch with the troops for most of the way to Arracan. The gunners were armed with four 12-pdr. guns, two 6-pdrs. and two 5½-in. howitzers, and the difficulties of transporting these pieces, together with their limbers and wagons, over the numerous creeks must have been enormous. The force left Chittagong on 11th January 1825, and it was not until the 24th of March that the mouth of the Arracan river was reached—a distance of 150 miles. Eight miles a day was considered a good march, and rafts and bridges frequently had to be improvised for the guns while the jungle was sometimes so thick that a road had to be cut through it to enable even the infantry to pass.

The enemy harassed the column as it advanced, and the guns had to be called upon on several occasions before the advance could be resumed, and the artillery had a few casualties. On March 29th the enemy was discovered to be holding a strongly stockaded hill, which was most gallantly attacked by the infantry, supported by the fire of two 6-pounders and two 5½-in. howitzers. The Burmese, however, fought stubbornly, and the attack failed, though not until every officer engaged had been wounded. It was decided to bring up heavy guns and mortars from the ships and to erect earthworks for them, and it was not until this had been done that the enemy was driven out, after a bombardment that lasted all day and cost the artillery eleven casualties. Some of the gunners had been working for 36 hours on end in getting the guns forward over the marshy ground, and the speed with which the heavy pieces were brought into action was very creditable.

The town of Arracan was captured without further opposition, for the Burmese had been roughly handled during the fighting and could not be induced to rally. Several expeditions were made into the surrounding country but no practicable route over the mountains eastward could be found, so that the idea of effecting a juncture with Sir Archibald Campbell's army in the Irrawaddy

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valley had to be abandoned. Meanwhile the climate had taken a heavy toll of General Morrison's force at Arracan, and it was fever and dysentery which finally forced the Government to withdraw the troops.

Such was the Arracan expedition—a record of patient endurance, physical effort in a trying climate, determination and devotion to duty. The fighting must have been a welcome change from the monotony of struggling through river, jungle and swamp, often on short rations, but the traditions of the Royal Artillery were upheld as gallantly in this side show in Burma as they have been in better known campaigns in Europe.

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BENGAL HORSE ARTILLERY

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52nd
(The Bengal Rocket Troop)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 52nd Field Battery, R.A., was originally raised in September, 1816, as The Rocket Troop of the Bengal Horse Artillery. The rocket was at that time in great favour in the British service, and had been used with some effect at the siege of Copenhagen in 1807, and at Leipsic and Waterloo. It was, however, no novelty in India, where native armies had for many years employed crude forms of rockets, although the East India Company's forces had not previously taken to these rather erratic missiles. Early in the nineteenth century, Sir William Congreve produced war rockets of considerable size, and it was expected that the weapon was one which would have great moral effect on natives. For this reason a special Rocket Troop was formed for the Bengal establishment.

The troop must have presented a curious sight on parade, for its equipment was certainly unusual. The European officers and men were mounted on horses and camels, while instead of guns there were four " volley cars " drawn by horses, and twenty " bouches a jeu," or tripods for discharging single rockets. The total establishment was four British officers, ten N.C.O.'s, eighty gunners and sixty-five sepoys. Captain Whish, who raised and commanded this novel unit, soon had an opportunity of testing its efficiency, for the Rocket Troop took part in the minor campaign against Hattrass Fort, and received a complimentary mention in General Orders for its services. As a result of the experience gained during this expedition several minor alterations to the establishment of the Troop were

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suggested, and in 1822 camels were replaced by horses, thus adding considerably to the mobility of the unit.

Early in 1825 half the Bengal Rocket Troop was despatched to join Sir Archibald Campbell's army at Rangoon in the first Burmese War. The British force advanced partly by land and partly by steamer up the Irrawaddy, but it was found that the heat and the jolting of the carts rendered the rockets unreliable, so that the Troop was sent by water whenever possible. The rockets are said to have proved disappointing at the first fight at Donabeu, and the failure was attributed to the faulty method of transport used. It was claimed, however, that Bundoola, the enemy leader, was himself killed by one of the rockets, and this was a most important success, for the Burmese forces had been held together chiefly by his energy and ability, and after his death they abandoned their position and fled.

The British Army remained in Prome during the rainy season, but on 19th January, 1826, operations were resumed against the Burmese who had fortified a very strong position on the river bank at Melloon. An intense bombardment of the enemy's stockades was continued for ninety minutes, the rockets in particular being most effective. The material result of the rocket fire on the stockades was obvious to the whole army, but the moral effect was probably even more important, for these terrifying missiles blazed and roared their way into every corner, accompanied by long trails of smoke. The terror produced among the Burmese by these noisy weapons was so great that they hardly opposed the British infantry, who crossed the 500 yard wide river in boats and occupied the ruins of the entrenchment. The pursuit was pressed with the utmost vigour, the Rocket Troop keeping well to the front, although they had only Burmese ponies to drag their carts, having given up their horses to assist in moving the Horse Artillery guns. On the 9th of February the beaten enemy were at last brought to bay at Pagahen-Meen. Here again the quick and accurate fire of the rockets was most successful,

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and the Burmese were decisively defeated, this being the last action of the war.

The Rocket Troop was especially thanked for its services in Burma and the rockets were evidently most effective, yet in 1828 the Troop was deprived of its special equipment and was converted into a gun troop. Rockets were indeed used again in 1842, in Afghanistan, but without success, and the weapon was never employed again in India. The Troop continued its career as an ordinary Bengal Horse Artillery Battery, and was eventually transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1862. There were many officers who deplored the passing of the rocket, that picturesque, but uncertain, instrument of war, but though the weapon itself has now been relegated to the museum, the famous Troop which handled it so effectively under the difficult conditions of warfare in the East, still remains to-day as the 52nd Field Battery, Royal Artillery.

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56th
(Tombs's Troop)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

Of the many campaigns waged by the British Army in the 19th century, none has provided more instances of gallantry than the stern struggle which ended in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny. And though Royal Artillery units took a generous share in the later stages of this bitter war, the brunt of the gunners' work in the early and most critical months was borne by the East India Company's troops. Of these, none had a finer reputation than Tombs's Troop of the Bengal Artillery which is now the 56th Field Battery R.A.

When the Indian Mutiny broke out, Major Tombs's Troop formed part of the Meerut Brigade which, with the column from Ambala, advanced to recapture Delhi from the mutineers. The battery took a most distinguished share in the action at Ghazi-ud-Nagar and later during the bitter fighting before Delhi. Major Tombs commanded one of the two columns which attacked an enemy redoubt on the 17th June, 1857, when he displayed great personal bravery, receiving a slight wound and having two horses shot under him.

On the 9th of July two guns of Tombs's Troop under Second Lieut. James Hills were stationed, together with a troop of the Carabiniers under Lieut. Stillman, at the Mound Piquet before Delhi. This position in the British outpost line was peculiarly liable to attack by the enemy, but since a troop of apparently loyal native Irregular Cavalry was stationed in advance to watch the main approach along the Trunk Road, there was no danger of it being surprised. These sowars were trusted men belonging to a

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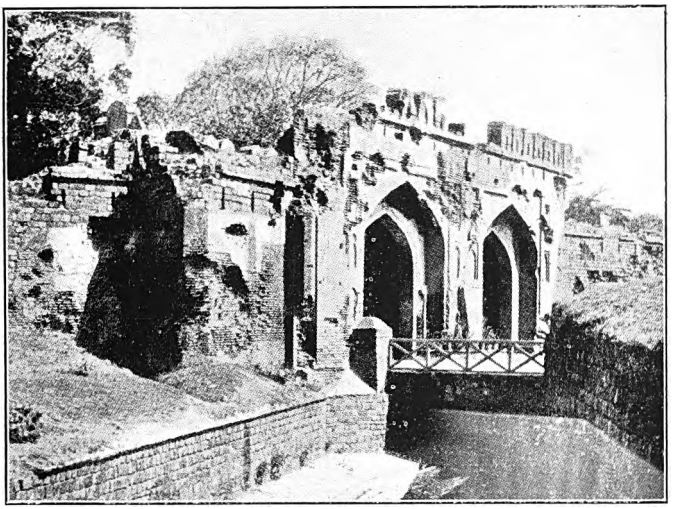
regiment (Christie's Horse) which had fought well in Afghanistan so that Mound Piquet was considered reasonably well guarded. While the two British officers were breakfasting together, a native cavalryman rode up from the advanced troop to say that a body of enemy horsemen was in sight. Sending this orderly back to Headquarters with



THE KASHMIR GATE, DELHI

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his message, the two officers immediately ordered their men to get mounted and to prepare for action. While the British cavalry were turning out, Lieut. Stillman moved away to a point of vantage from whence he could get a view of the country around, and at the same time the Gunner subaltern moved his two guns to the rear in order to get

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into action in a position which commanded the road. It was at this moment that a body of native cavalry, in a uniform resembling that of Christie's Horse, suddenly swept down on the Carabiniers. Only then was it realised that the native orderly had purposely been despatched too late to give the piquet sufficient warning to get under arms. The British cavalry were caught without a leader and not even formed up, so that it is little wonder that they were broken. The rebel horsemen charged on towards the guns which were still moving in the direction of the selected position. As soon as Hills saw the enemy he ordered "Action Front," but he immediately realised that there was little time to get the guns unlimbered and to fire a round of grape. To give his men the few extra seconds so desperately needed, this gallant young officer charged the mutineers single-handed, cut down the leading trooper, wounded the second and was then himself overborne by sheer weight of numbers and ridden down. Though his military cloak was pierced in several places, by some lucky chance he was unhurt, and he picked himself up in time to meet the attack of three more rebels. Two of these he killed, but he would almost certainly have been sabred by the third had he not been rescued by Major Tombs, who had just arrived on the scene. Meanwhile the rebel cavalry, deterred by the business-like way in which the guns were being got into action thanks to the delay, swerved aside and galloped off round the rear of the British lines, doing no damage but losing many men en route. For their gallantry on this occasion both Major Tombs and Second Lieut. Hills were awarded the Victoria Cross.

The name of Major-General Sir Harry Tombs, V.C., K.C.B., is now linked for ever with that of his old Troop, and in addition a Tombs Memorial Prize is awarded each term to the best qualified cadet at the Royal Military Academy who passes out into the Royal Artillery, so that we may confidently hope that the story of the heroism of Tombs and his famous Troop will never be forgotten.

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ran short of ammunition. These guns were sent to the rear to replenish their waggons while Captain Slade took over the command of E/B Battery from Major Blackwood, but by then the position had become critical ; the enemy artillery had advanced and their infantry had worked up close to the hard-pressed British line. About 2.30 p.m. the enemy made a final assault which was repulsed in front of the guns but which broke a native regiment on the left. A moment later and the fanatical hillmen swept into the battery position. The left section was cut to pieces, the detachments gallantly fighting to the last with handspikes and sponge-rods, but the remaining two guns were limbered up and got away after heroic efforts and in spite of many casualties among men and horses. Lieut. Osborne, for instance, charged the enemy single handed and by attracting the attention of the Afghans to himself, gave the battery the few extra seconds so badly needed.

The battery having got clear, it halted to re-organise and then continued to retreat until, with the smooth bores, a suitable position was occupied to cover the retirement. The situation was indeed desperate, for the scattered British force was almost annihilated and nothing but a crowd of panic-stricken fugitives streamed back past the guns. The 66th (2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment) died almost to a man together with the gallant Blackwood, and except for a handful of native cavalry and E/B Battery the British force had ceased to exist. The battery piled its waggons with wounded men and thus undoubtedly saved many from a cruel death at the hands of the tribesmen, yet it continued to act as rearguard and by coming into action at intervals and by using the spare gunners as riflemen, Slade managed to hold the enemy off. All through the night the retreat continued and to add to the fugitives' sufferings, no water could be found. Five of the smooth-bore guns, three waggons and the store waggon of E/B Battery had to be abandoned owing to the complete exhaustion of the teams. Not until 7.30 a.m. was water obtained and the troops were then re-organised. Meanwhile during the whole of this dreadful

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march the battery had retained its formation and discipline, and to this fact alone the safe withdrawal of the survivors of the battle was entirely due.

The conduct of E/B Battery R.H.A. at Maiwand was suitably rewarded by the bestowal of two Victoria Crosses (Sergeant P. Mullane and Gunner J. Collis) and eight Distinguished Conduct Medals, while Captain Slade received the C.B. Furthermore the Viceroy of India (Lord Ripon) honoured the battery on its return to Jacobabad by especially and in person thanking the unit on parade for its gallant services in Afghanistan. The loss of the two guns under such circumstances was obviously no disgrace, but it is interesting to note that they were speedily recovered a month later when Sir F. Roberts, V.C., scattered the enemy's army near Kandahar. Though Maiwand was a disaster, it was an excellent example of how defeat may be redeemed by gallantry and discipline.

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67th
(Middleton's)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 67th Field Battery, R.A., can claim to be the first horsed Field Battery of the Royal Artillery to engage an enemy in India. Previous to the Mutiny, the only artillery employed within the vast territories from the Punjab to Cape Comorin was that of the East India Company, but when the great upheaval of 1857 threatened the very existence of the British in India, the assistance of the Royal Artillery was speedily asked for and readily given.

The 6th Company 10th Battalion R.A. (now 67th Field Battery) embarked hurriedly on the 15th August, 1857 at Hong Kong, and disembarked at Calcutta. Here it was equipped with nine pounder guns, vehicles and horses and proceeded under Captain W. A. Middleton R.A. to join the force which Sir Colin Campbell had assembled for the relief of the hard pressed garrison of Lucknow. By a forced march of 25 miles, Middleton's Battery joined the column on 14th November, 1857, and two days later two of his guns were brought into action at point blank range in the Secunder Bagh—a walled enclosure around which the most desperate hand-to-hand fighting took place. Shortly afterwards the battery was engaged for two hours against the Shah Nujjeef, a strongly-built shrine which was holding up the advance. The position was critical and Sir John Campbell himself ordered the battery to advance to close range to breach the walls and prepare the way for the infantry assault. With loud cheers, the drivers waving their whips and the gunners their caps, the battery galloped forward under a deadly fire, unlimbered and came into action as though on parade. The infantry, led by the gallant Sir

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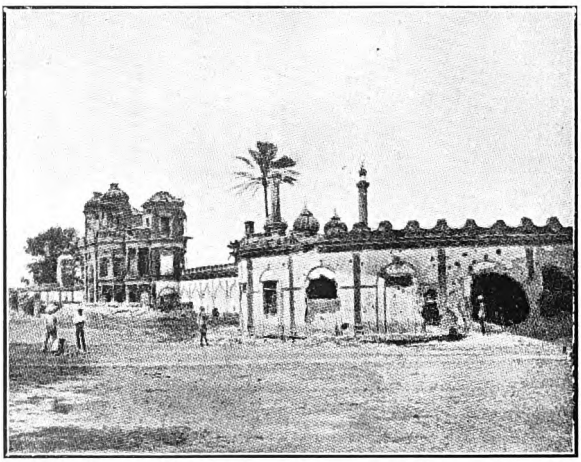
Colin in person, once more attacked, and though at first repulsed, finally entered a breach made by the guns and drove the mutineers out. The battery again did useful work in defending the Dilkoosha—a vital point which covered the withdrawal of the whole force—against attacks by the rebels.



THE SECUNDER BAGH, LUCKNOW

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There was no rest after this hard fighting, however, and by the 6th December the battery was in the thick of the engagement at Cawnpore. Detached with a small force to outflank the enemy, Middleton galloped his guns forward and came into action in the infantry front line where their accurate and steady fire did tremendous execution. The mutineers abandoned Cawnpore and the battery formed part of the small force under General Grant which took up

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the pursuit towards Bithoor. As the British neared the ferry over the river, large bodies of enemy troops were seen attempting to get their guns across on rafts. The cavalry and artillery at once galloped to the front and a section of Middleton's battery engaged ten of the mutineers' guns for some time before the rest of the British artillery could get into action. The fire of the Field Battery and that of Remington's Bengal Horse Artillery soon drove the enemy from their guns and before a single British infantryman had approached the scene, the whole of the rebel force had fled, abandoning 15 guns with limbers and waggons, besides an immense quantity of ammunition and stores. While the cavalry prevented any attempt to rally, the guuners set to work to bring in the captured guns, blow up the damaged vehicles and destroy what ammunition could not be moved. This proved no easy task, for the guns were stuck in the river bed and it was only by the greatest exertions that they were salved. This brilliant affair showed what could be done by bold handling of really well trained cavalry and artillery working together, and the moral effect of the action was so great that the mutineers completely dispersed in that area.

Middleton's battery next formed part of the Jaunpore column under General Franks which in 13 days marched 130 miles, fought four sharp actions and captured 35 guns. At one of these engagements, (Chanda, on 19th February, 1858) the battery was in the forefront of the pursuit which was carried out at a gallop, and also rendered excellent service in beating off a strong hostile counter attack which had caused some anxiety. Once again the battery assisted in the capture of Lucknow, being particularly commended for its steadiness at the assault of the Moosa Bagh.

Those who have experienced the climatic conditions of Central India will appreciate the tremendous difficulties which the British gunners had to face especially when engaged in the street fighting at Lucknow. The gallantry, steadiness and skill which were displayed by Middleton's Battery in the days of the Mutiny set a standard for their successors of all time.

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71st
(The Broken Wheel)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The unusual sub-title authorised for use by the 71st Field Battery, R.A., refers to an incident at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, in 1882 but the battery has a distinguished record apart from this particular campaign. Originally raised as the 2nd Company Reserve Artillery of the Bombay Artillery in November, 1857, it soon saw active service with No. 18 Light Field Battery during the hard fighting which followed the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny. Though so hastily formed, the battery performed most excellent service in 1858 at Ratghur, Barodea, Garrakotak, Jhansi, Calpee, Morar and Gwalior. The difficult conditions under which the campaign was fought tested the unit severely but so well did it emerge from the ordeal that on the restoration of peace the battery was retained in the service as the 2nd Company 3rd Battalion and in 1862 was transferred to the Royal Artillery as the 6th Battery 18th Brigade.

On the 20th July, 1882, the battery—which was then designated N Battery 2nd Brigade, R.A.—disembarked at Alexandria to join Sir Garnet Wolseley's army for the operations against Arabi Pasha who had revolted and was supported by the large and well-equipped Egyptian army. The British, having concentrated near Kassassin, prepared to attack the formidable entrenched position held by the Egyptians at Tel-el-Kebir. Armed with 75 excellent guns, and only approachable over bare desert without a vestige of cover, the lines of Tel-el-Kebir, when held by 20,000 trained soldiers, were not to be despised. The main parapet of the work extended for over 7,000 yards protected by a

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ditch in front, and the attackers were exposed to the enfilade fire of guns sited in numerous small redoubts along the line.

After carrying out a careful reconnaissance of this position, the British commander decided to attack it at dawn after an approach march by night. He hoped thus to get his troops over the exposed ground in front of the entrenchment before the enemy's fire power could be fully developed, and by surprising the Egyptians, to gain a decisive victory which would end the campaign. To put this plan into execution, the British force moved out of camp shortly before nightfall on the night of the 12th of September. The 1st Division was on the right and 2nd Division (Highland Brigade leading) on the left with the seven batteries of Field Artillery between.

Just before dawn a few scattered shots from the enemy outposts showed that the entrenchments had been reached and a blaze of rifle and gun fire met the Highlanders as they charged. While desperate fighting was proceeding round the main rampart, N Battery 2nd Brigade came up, and without a moment's hesitation, Major W. G. Branker led it into the ditch and over the enemy's parapet which had just been cleared by the Black Watch. It was here that one gun was disabled by the breaking of a wheel but while this was being changed under a heavy fire, the remaining five 16 pounders were quickly brought into action on the further side of the rampart. While two guns enfiladed the enemy to the north, three more fired southwards into their flank and so devastating was this fire that the defence to the North immediately collapsed and crowds of fugitive soldiers poured out of the entrenchments to the rear where they were ridden down by the British cavalry. Southwards, fighting still continued, but 16-pounder shrapnel at 1,000 yards delivered from a flank, soon cleared the Egyptians from their second line of trenches. The battery then divided into two parts and moved along the entrenchment coming into action at almost point blank range whenever resistance was met. But the fighting was by then practically over

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and the 68 rounds fired by the battery had taken tremendous effect. So decisive was the victory and so relentless the pursuit that Cairo was occupied on the 14th of September and Arabi Pasha surrendered the same day. The campaign had ended.

For his services at Tel-el-Kebir, Major Branker was mentioned in despatches and awarded the C.B. and the 3rd Class of the Order of Medjidie. The advance of the battery into the enemy's entrenchments practically at the same time as the attacking infantry was a bold stroke which had much to do with the success of the assault. Though the battery officially became the 71st Field Battery, R.A., in 1884, it will always be known in the Regiment as The Broken Wheel Battery in memory of its distinguished services at Tel-el-Kebir.

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87th
(Lawson's Company)
FIELD BATTERY, R.A.

The 87th Field Battery holds the unique record of having been the only artillery unit to serve throughout the entire Peninsula War from 1808 till 1814. During those years it experienced a good deal of hard marching and fighting in a campaign which, perhaps, beyond all others, saw the Field Artillery established on a proper footing. The ill-equipped batteries of 1808—bullock drawn, and with no spare stores—were changed by 1814 into efficient, highly mobile units, which could keep up with the army in almost any country.

Lawson's Company was raised on the 13th September, 1803, at Woolwich, and five years later was stationed at Gibraltar. On the 12th of May, 1808, one half company proceeded to Sicily, while the other, under Captain Morrison, embarked with General Spencer's expedition to Cadiz, but in August was transferred to Sir Arthur Wellesley's army in Portugal. Owing to the shortage of artillery horses, it was found impossible to equip this half company, so the 6-pounders were left in store, and the officers and men were distributed among the three batteries which constituted the whole artillery of the army advancing against the French. After manoeuvring Marshal Junot out of Lisbon, the British attacked and defeated the enemy at Rolica, where the guns were fought most gallantly. On the 21st August the battle of Vimiera was turned into a British victory largely through the destructive fire of the guns, which shattered the enemy's attacking columns before they could reach the infantry. It was this success which led to the Convention of Cintra, under the terms of which the

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French evacuated Portugal. During the Coruna campaign, the half company under Captain Lawson remained at Lisbon in charge of the reserve artillery, but in March 1809 it was brought up to strength as a full company, and was equipped with light 3-pounder guns. The company took part in the passage of the Douro, the pursuit of Soult's army to Braga, and finally in the desperate fight at Talavera where its 2nd Captain (Taylor) was severely wounded and captured.

The winter of 1809 was spent at Badajoz, but the next year the company accompanied Lord Wellington in his campaign, which included the stern encounter at Busaco and Fuentes D'Onoro. The continual marching, countermarching, blockades and sieges of this period must have been most trying for the gunners, but Lawson's company not only took their fair share, but assisted in the storming of Cuidad Rodrigo in 1812 as siege artillerymen. The field batteries of the Peninsula army were by then becoming really efficient units, and many of the obvious defects in their original equipment had been corrected.

At the commencement of the 1813 campaign Lawson's Company was part of the 6th Division during the advance of the army that summer, though at the battle of Vittoria it was with the 5th Division. At this decisive battle the French lost every gun they had in the field (over 150), and the massed fire of the British artillery was undoubtedly the factor which contributed chiefly to the victory. Then followed the siege of San Sebastian, at which the assaulting infantry were supported by the covering fire of the artillery shooting just over their heads—the first attempt at a barrage. Lawson's Company—then equipped with 9-pdrs. —took a leading share in the famous passage of the Bidassoa in October 1813, and in the battle of Nivelle. Captain Mosse was in command of the Company when it assisted to repulse the French attacks on the 10th and 11th of December, and received special thanks for its services. Thus ended the campaign of 1813, during which the army in six weeks had marched 600 miles, crossing six great

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rivers, and driven 120,000 French troops over the Pyrenees. The following April peace was proclaimed and the Peninsula War was over.

It is impossible fully to describe the patience, determination and courage which must have been required to endure those six years of war. The constant struggle to get the clumsy guns over the dreadful roads of Spain, the lack of food and comforts, the long marches in bad weather, and the numerous battles, imposed a strain on the troops which it is difficult fully to appreciate. But the ordeal of the Gunners had not been endured in vain, for during the war the British Field Artillery had reached a standard of efficiency never before considered possible, and Lawson's Company, which had marched and fought from Rolica to Toulouse, had in truth assisted in making regimental history.

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19th
(Niagara)
MEDIUM BATTERY, R.A.

The 19th Medium Battery has had a chequered career, and has been twice reduced, but its chief war service was during the American War of 1813-1815, which has received comparatively little attention from the military historian. In those days war between the two countries was by no means " unthinkable," and was in fact carried out with great bitterness on both sides, so that the capture of Fort Niagara, when the battery won its special title, was a very creditable performance.

In the winter of 1813 the Americans gathered a considerable force together and attacked the British outposts westwards of the Niagara River, which connects Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The British at first retired towards Burlington, but finding that the enemy's main body had left the neighbourhood, they gradually pushed their way up to Fort George, on the western bank of the Niagara River. The depredations of the American militia in the farms of the district determined Colonel Murray, who commanded the advanced British troops, to attempt to drive the enemy from Fort George and over the river. This he accomplished early in December, and the Americans, under General McClure, evacuated the Fort with its stores and guns and retired to Fort Niagara on the eastern bank of the river. The British troops were infuriated by finding that the town of Newark had been wantonly destroyed by fire, and demanded to be led against the enemy.

Fort Niagara was at this time a very strong work, mounting 27 guns (including 32-pounders), and being garrisoned by 430 men, and well stocked with ammunition

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and provisions, it was able to withstand even a regular siege. Against this formidable post the British could gather only 550 men, including a detachment of the 10th Company, 4th Battalion, R.A., with no siege artillery, but Colonel Murray determined to attempt a surprise, in the hope that the Americans would not expect such a bold method of attack. The desperate nature of the enterprise will be better understood when it is mentioned that the cold was intense and the country covered in deep snow, while boats for crossing the river had to be dragged by hand overland for several miles.

In spite of the difficulties the British successfully landed on the east side of the river, at a point about three miles above the Fort, in the early hours of 19th December, 1813. By 4 a.m. the column had commenced its march, the advanced guard being composed of a few grenadiers of the 100th Foot (The Leinster Regiment) and the Royal Artillery under Lieutenant Charlton. By a sudden dash the leading troops surprised and bayonetted two enemy piquets before the alarm could be given, and by a swift advance the sentries on the main gate were captured. The password was obtained from a terrified prisoner without much difficulty, and it was found that by incredible carelessness the gate had been left open for the return of the guard after the relief of sentries. Five companies of the 100th Foot immediately swept into the Fort, while three more companies stormed the eastern wall, though the defenders attempted to rally. But the British bayonets were not to be denied, and after a few volleys of musketry the garrison surrendered. The British casualties in this brilliant affair were only six killed and five wounded, but the American losses amounted to 65 killed, 14 wounded and 339 prisoners. The Fort contained 27 guns, 3,000 stands of arms and immense quantities of ordnance and commissariat stores.

The 10th Company 4th Battalion took part in nearly all the engagements on the Niagara frontier during the war, and by General Orders of the 7th October, 1816, was

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granted the privilege of bearing the word " Niagara " on its appointments " in addition to any badges or devices which may have been hitherto granted to the Royal Regiment of Artillery." The Company was in garrison at Tournai during the Waterloo campaign, and was reduced four years later, but was re-formed in 1848 as the 6th Company 12th Battalion. On the 1st of February, 1871, it was again reduced, but was re-formed once more in 1898 and is to-day designated 19th Medium Battery.

The capture of Fort Niagara was one of those bold strokes which so often succeed in war when made by determined troops under brave leaders. Few artillery units have served under more arduous conditions than did 19th Medium Battery during the American War, and it is satisfactory to know that after twice suffering reduction the battery still survives to carry on the tradition of one hundred years ago.

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25th
(The Battle-Axe Company)
MEDIUM BATTERY, R.A.

The 25th Medium Battery, R.A., can claim to be the only artillery unit to take its title from an actual trophy which is still retained as a sort of battery standard. The identical Battle-Axe from which the battery takes its distinctive name has been preserved and is carried on parade on ceremonial occasions by the tallest man in the unit.

The Battle-Axe Company was originally No. 8 Company of the 7th Battalion R.A. which was raised from the Royal Irish Artillery on the union of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1808 the company was stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was selected to proceed with four infantry battalions on the expedition against the French island of Martinique. This force, which was known as the Halifax Brigade, was commanded by General Sir George Prevost and on 30th January, 1809, it joined another British contingent from the West Indies under General Maitland. Escorted by the fleet under Lord Cochrane, the invaders made an almost unopposed landing on the island of Martinique and prepared to advance inland to meet the French. The difficulties to be overcome were considerable, for in that deadly climate sickness was far more destructive than bullets, and active operations had to be undertaken promptly before the troops were rendered useless by fever.

The French attacked the Halifax Brigade the day after the landing had been effected but they were driven back with heavy loss after hard fighting and retired into their forts. The British were compelled to undertake siege operations against these works and in this fatiguing and difficult task the 8th Company 7th Battalion took a leading

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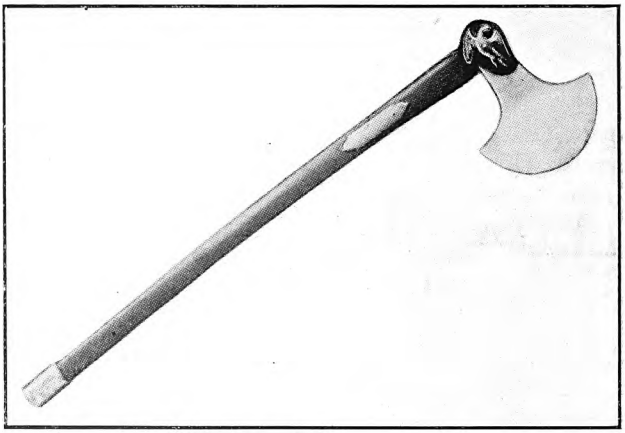
share. In spite of the great difficulty of dragging heavy guns through a roadless country and in such a climate, so energetically was the work tackled that in a single day a battery position for six 24-pounders and four 10-inch mortars had been prepared and armed. This feat was without parallel in those days and constituted a record of which the gunners were justly proud, while the enemy were so



25th Medium Battery's
BATTLE AXE.

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astonished at the energy and skill shown by the attackers that they made little reply to the fire that was opened on them. The British bombardment was continued with such accuracy that the French capitulated on the 24th of February owing to nearly all their guns having been dismounted.

Sir George Prevost was so impressed by the performance of the artillerymen that he assembled the officers of the

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Company to decide on a suitable method of rewarding the unit. It was at first suggested that a French one-pounder brass gun should be given to the Company as a trophy, but Second-Captain St. Clair begged that a smaller and more portable object be substituted as it would be impossible to take a gun on active service with the unit. For this reason a French axe and a brass drum were selected from the booty of Martinique and were solomnly presented to the 8th Company 7th Battalion R.A. to commemorate their gallantry and skill during the campaign.

The axe, which is of excellent workmanship, is 37½ inches long, and is decorated with a brass eagle to denote its origin. For many years it was always carried on parade by the tallest man in the Company, who was further distinguished by being allowed to wear a moustache by virtue of his honourable office. The battery trophy accompanied the unit through the arduous campaign of 1813 in North America when the foresight displayed by Captain St. Clair in declining the more cumbersome gun in favour of the easily carried battle-axe was amply vindicated.

In 1819 the designation of the Company was changed to 7th Company 7th Battalion and after serving at Woolwich from 1823 till 1831 it again proceeded to the West Indies, whence it returned in 1837. Later the Company became No. 2 Battery 5th Brigade and in 1859, 45 Company, R.G.A. After the Great War it was changed from a coast defence unit (J Coast Battery) and became 25th Medium Battery, R.A.

The morale of this battery has always been high and there is no doubt that the possession of the Battle-Axe, which recalls the glories of the past, has done much to stimulate interest in the battery's history and pride in its fine record. The Battle-Axe is, in fact, the nearest approach to a regimental colour carried by an Artillery unit and though it is not officially recognised on this basis, it is treated with the honour due to a standard.

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4th
(Gibraltar)
HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

Of the batteries which hold special titles to commemorate great deeds of the past, only one has a distinctive name connected with the successful defence of a fortress. But since the famous Siege of Gibraltar lasted nearly four years, the 4th Heavy Battery, R.A., may well be proud of its unique honour, for this incident of its history lasted longer than many campaigns.

When, on the 16th of June, 1779, Spain declared war on England, she determined to capture Gibraltar, which was then garrisoned by about 7,000 men, including the 2nd Company of the 2nd Battalion R.A. (now the 4th Heavy Battery, R.A.) and three other artillery companies. The fortifications of the Rock were formidable, and the defences had been greatly strengthened just before war broke out. The enemy commenced their operations by investing the fortress by land and by instituting a close blockade by sea, hoping thus to starve the garrison into submission. Though the British suffered great distress through shortage of supplies as a result of this policy, the arrival of Rodney's fleet and convoy in April 1781 definitely removed all danger of Gibraltar being subjected by hunger, and the Spaniards commenced regular siege operations against the Rock. The bombardment which then broke out never ceased for thirteen months, and it speaks well for the tenacity of the defence that the enemy failed to silence the British guns, outnumbered though the latter were. The discipline of the gunners never slackened during this weary period of unending vigilance and monotonous performance of routine duty,

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and it is significant that very few desertions from the Artillery took place during the siege.

The Gunners were indeed greatly overworked, for there were under 500 of all ranks to man 550 guns and mortars. Though the work in the batteries was most trying and monotonous, they made good use of their time in perfecting various ideas for strengthening the defence. The firing of shells from guns, for instance, was tried, and by constant practice the artillerymen became most proficient in cutting the fuzes to the correct length to get low air bursts. Many of the famous galleries cut in the Rock were also made during the siege, while the invention of a depressing gun carriage by Lieutenant Koehler, R.A., was of inestimable value to the defence. Experiments were also made with guns buried in the ground at certain angles, so as to get increased range, and this device enabled the defenders to shell the enemy's camp, which had previously been considered out of reach. Later, of course, the use of red-hot shot was responsible for the destruction of the celebrated floating batteries.

But though the Gunners occupied their time in these efforts to get greater technical efficiency, there was also continual work to be done in repairing damaged carriages and rebuilding shattered defences. Nor was the defence entirely passive, for on the night of the 26th November, 1781, a sortie was made by the garrison, with the object of destroying the enemy's advanced works, in the erection of which so much energy and care had been expended. The attacking party of 2,000 men included 114 artillerymen, and though the Spanish batteries lay three-quarters of a mile from the fortress they were most gallantly stormed and burnt, while 28 guns were spiked. That the Gunners took their share in the action is proved by the fact that both of the Spanish officers captured in this affair were taken by artillerymen.

The destruction of the enemy's works greatly upset his plans, and it was not until the 13th of September, 1782,

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that the " Grand Attack " took place. Having received important reinforcements from Minorca, the besiegers were able to dispose of over 200 guns on the land side, backed by an army of 40,000 men, under the famous Duc de Crillon, while on the sea front they had 47 battleships and numerous small craft, besides ten of the specially built floating batteries. All day long on the 13th a furious cannonade went on, and was continued that night, but in the early hours of next morning the enemy floating batteries burst into flames, from the effects of the red-hot shot from the Rock. The " Grand Attack " had failed, and on the 2nd of February, 1783, hostilities ceased. During the siege the Artillery fired 200,600 rounds and suffered 196 casualities.

The work of the Royal Artillery in this memorable defence was beyond all praise and to their exertions the victory was largely due. Their technical efficiency, no less than their steady gallantry, have made the title " Gibraltar " a worthy honour for their descendants of all time.

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8th
(Rogers's Company)
HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

Raised in 1761 as the 2nd Company of the 3rd Battalion Royal Artillery, the 8th Heavy Battery has had a varied and eventful record of active service all over the world. From 1791 to 1802 the company was almost continuously engaged in the struggles between the British and the French in the West Indies, and during this period took a leading part in the capture of Tobago, Martinique, Saint Lucia (both engagements), Trinidad, Porto Rico and Surinam. But the ravages of disease had been so severe that in 1802 the company was brought Home to recuperate, and four years later Captain Thomas Rogers assumed the command which he retained for 19 years. During his tenure the company fought at Walcheren, Quatre Bras and Waterloo so that there is good reason why his name should be coupled with that of the unit.

The company took part in the siege of Flushing in 1809 and suffered all the discomforts which attended that disastrous expedition. Fortunately the disgraceful mistakes which distinguished the staff work of the Walcheren fiasco were not repeated six years later when Rogers's Company found itself in Belgium excellently equipped as a six gun nine-pounder battery under the Duke of Wellington. Being attached to Sir Thomas Picton's 5th Division, the battery was one of the two British artillery units engaged at the battle of Quatre Bras on the 16th of June, 1815. As soon as the British arrived on the field to support our Dutch-Belgian allies, Rogers's Battery came into position on the left of Kemp's Infantry Brigade and engaged in a furious artillery duel with numerous French guns well

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hidden in a wood some 600 yards distant. Though suffering heavy losses in men and horses and threatened by a large body of Cuirassiers, the battery maintained its steady fire, and later, by opportune salvos of canister, completely repulsed a column of enemy infantry which was attempting to attack the British left flank. The arrival of British reinforcements decided the battle and next day Rogers's Battery withdrew to the position at Waterloo.

At the opening of the battle on the 18th June the battery was in position in front of the infantry of the 5th Division on the left of the Brussels road, and was directed to fire on the French infantry as they advanced to the assault. In spite of tremendous losses the enemy came on with great determination and Sir Thomas Picton stationed himself near the battery to direct its fire. Calmly the gunners waited with lighted port fires until the head of the French column appeared over the crest close to the guns. At the word " Fire," a tremendous salvo of grape shattered the enemy and before they could recover they were charged by the British infantry. A *melée* ensued in which the gunners joined, armed with rammers, until the French gave way and were hurled back in confusion. So critical was the situation at this time that one of Rogers's guns was spiked by its No. 1 to prevent it being used by the enemy who seemed bound to capture it. During the fighting the gallant Sir Thomas Picton was killed close to the battery.

As soon as the French had been repulsed, Rogers's Battery moved to the right of the Brussels road to assist that portion of the hard-pressed line and later again changed position further to the right until near Bolton's guns. Here the three remaining pieces—two being out of action through losses among the teams—assisted in the decisive stroke of the battle—the repulse of the Imperial Guard. As those magnificent veterans advanced steadily in column over the crest of the hill, they were met by a tempest of fire from Bolton's guns on the left and Rogers's guns on the right. Whole ranks were blown away by this murderous discharge and before they could deploy, the British infantry

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completed the rout by a charge which drove back even those gallant soldiers in utter confusion. Immediately the British line advanced and the battery struggled forward to support the movement across the sodden fields to La Belle Alliance, where the pursuit was taken over by the Prussians. The battle of Waterloo was won.

In later years Rogers's Company was engaged in the Crimea and in India during the Mutiny, but it will always be remembered chiefly for its glorious share in the victory of Waterloo, where by its steadiness and gallantry it helped to make history.

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11th
(Seringapatam)
HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

Prior to the outbreak of war with Tippoo Sultan of Mysore early in 1799, the fame of his fortress of Seringapatam had spread far and wide. This grim castle had been the scene of many wholesale massacres and was considered impregnable to assault. Its capture after a siege of only a month was undoubtedly a wonderful feat of arms, and the 11th Heavy Battery R.A., which took part in the operation, may well be proud to wear the distinctive title of "Seringapatam."

In February two British armies marched against Tippoo Sultan, ruler of Mysore. This son of Hyder Ali Khan was indeed a formidable enemy whose chief ambition it was to drive the British out of India. Brutal, cruel but able, the " Tiger of Mysore " could dispose of a large number of troops, many of whom were trained on the European model and officered by Frenchmen. It was clear that his growing power must be crushed if the British were to retain their supremacy in Southern India.

At the beginning of the campaign, Tippoo Sultan advanced swiftly to the attack, but after suffering two defeats he retired to his capital, Seringapatam. The fortress was built on an island in the Cauvery River and its naturally strong position had been improved by every device known to military engineers of that day. The ramparts—forty feet high—were of great thickness and were solidly rivetted with huge granite slabs set in cement. Two such walls and ditches surrounded the fortress while each gate

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positions were constructed for the siege guns, and a steady and accurate fire was maintained on a selected point of the ramparts so as to make a breach practicable for assault. Meanwhile zig-zag trenches were commenced towards the river bank and all this work had to be done under the fire of the enemy's outposts. The difficulties of carrying on such operations in the climate of Southern India were indeed tremendous, but the unending task of dragging the cumbersome guns and ammunition into the battery positions went on for a full month. The artillery of the besiegers included units from all three Presidencies, yet the work was continued without friction and the steady bombardment was maintained. By the 3rd of May, a gap had been blown in the enemy's ramparts and the main task of the Artillery had been accomplished.

The storming parties which assembled on the river bank had no light task to undertake, for the Cauvery had to be forded under fire before the breach was reached. The assault was delivered at noon and such was the dash of General Baird's men that the ramparts were reached within six minutes of the commencement of the attack in spite of the enemy's resistance. Some gunners acompanied the assaulting columns and two at least were killed during the furious struggle which took place in the breach. But the British troops, infuriated at the torture of some of their comrades who had been captured by the enemy earlier in the campaign, carried everything before them, and while one column cleared the western and northern ramparts, another pushed along the southern face of the fortress. The redoubtable Tippoo himself tried in vain to stem the assault on the northern walls and was finally caught between the two British columns. Entangled in a mass of fugitives at the Water Gate, the " Tiger of Mysore " was shot dead by a British soldier and his body was soon covered by a pile of corpses. Here it was discovered by General Baird and Colonel Wellesley (later Lord Wellington) after the fall of the fortress and was buried with full military honours in the tomb of Hyder Ali.

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The capture of Seringapatam and the death of Tippoo completed the overthrow of the power of Mysore and restored the prestige of British arms after the disaster of Colonel Baillie's army in 1780. The bravery, determination and endurance required to accomplish the storm of such a fortress in the face of a courageous enemy may best be realised by those who have experienced the conditions of an Indian April.

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19th
(Eyre's)
HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

The grant in September, 1929, of a distinctive sub-title to the 19th Heavy Battery was a belated tribute to the memory of a famous Bengal Artilleryman and to the services of the unit under his command. Raised in 1786, the 1st Company 5th Battalion Bengal Artillery (as the present 19th Heavy Battery was then named) had a distinguished career before it was transferred to the British service in 1862, but it was for its record in the Mutiny under Major Vincent Eyre that the battery won its greatest fame.

Vincent Eyre was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery in 1829 and as a subaltern he was Deputy Commissary of Ordnance at Kabul. He was for nine months a prisoner, together with his family, in the hands of the Afghans after the disaster of 1842 and later served as Commandant to the artillery of the Gwalior Contingent. Promoted major in 1854, he had a short spell of sick leave after 25 years continuous service in India before proceeding to Burma to command the 1st Company 5th Battalion of his regiment.

On the 14th June, 1857, with his company of 60 European gunners, Eyre landed at Calcutta and formed No.3 Horse Field Battery for service with General Havelock's force at Allahabad. Without waiting for his horses, Eyre with his battery proceeded up the Ganges by steamer, and arrived at Dinapore on the 25th July, where he was met with the news of the mutiny at that station. After making sure that the European force at Dinapore was in no immediate danger, Major Eyre proceeded to Ghazeepore where he

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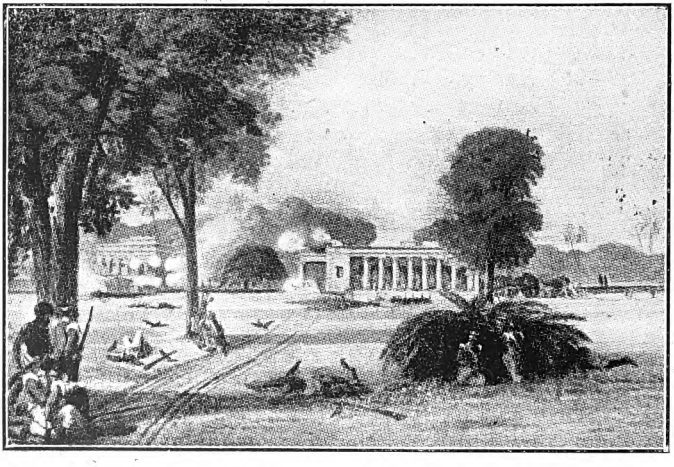
landed two guns. There he heard that a band of 16 Europeans and 52 Sikh police was besieged by three regiments of rebels at Arrah, some 45 miles from the river. He determined to rescue this party in spite of the obvious difficulties, and on the 29th July he reached Buxar where he found a steamer with 160 men of the 5th (Northumberland) Fusiliers, under Captain L'Estrange. With this detachment, fourteen



THE SIEGE OF ARRAH.

Reproduced from
Forrest's "History of the Indian Mutiny."
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mounted volunteers, his forty gunners and some bullocks to drag the guns, Major Eyre set out for Arrah.

On the night of the 30th July this small force marched 15 miles and next day reached Shahpoor, where information was received that a British column had been ambushed and almost annihilated in an attempt to relieve Arrah.

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Nothing daunted by the news, Eyre pushed on, and on 2nd August came upon the enemy in considerable strength. The British troops formed up on each side of the guns and while the artillery fire drove back the mutineers' centre, the infantry protected the flanks. Alternately advancing and halting to fire, the British literally forced their way through the enemy's divided line until the rebels finally retired. After a short rest the march was continued and the enemy were found to be holding a wide nullah, having previously destroyed the bridge. The only way to pass this obstacle was by the railway and to reach this the force had to execute a flank march in the face of the enemy. This dangerous movement was successfully carried out, covered by the fire of the guns, which though unsupported and twice charged by the enemy, were able to keep the mutineers at bay. Finally an impetuous charge by the handful of infantry broke the enemy's resistance and cleared the road to Arrah. The night was spent in bridging another stream and next morning the garrison of Arrah was relieved, and only just in time, for the enemy had already dug a mine beneath the defences.

Not content with this success, Major Eyre took up the pursuit of the rebels. Reinforced by 200 men of the 10th Foot and 150 of Rattray's Sikhs, he came up with the mutineers at Jugdeespore, which was the stronghold of the enemy's leader, Koer Singh. After a stiff fight in which the gunners took a prominent share, the rebels were completely defeated with heavy loss. The palace and fort at Jugdeespore were then blown up and with the enemy's force scattered in all directions, Major Eyre withdrew to Buxar unmolested.

The decision to attempt the relief of Arrah with the small and ill-equipped force at his disposal and the judicious way in which the operation was carried out in the face of tremendous difficulties, stamped Vincent Eyre as a leader of considerable merit. No more fitting tribute to his memory could be devised than the coupling of his name with the title of the battery which fought so gallantly under his command.

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27th
(Lloyd's Company)
HEAVY BATTERY, R.A.

The Duke of Wellington is said to have himself declared that the troops he commanded during the Waterloo campaign were not up to the standard of his veterans of the Peninsula War. This was largely true as regards the cavalry and infantry, but his artillery certainly was as efficient as any he had ever commanded and though some units had not long been formed they had undoubtedly attained a high standard of efficiency. Captain W. J. Lloyd, for example, raised No. 2 Company 10th Battalion (now 27th Heavy Battery R.A.) in February, 1808, yet this unit fought well at Walcheren in 1809 and earned undying fame at Quatre Bras and at Waterloo in 1815.

The expedition to Walcheren was a severe test of any newly-formed unit, for the arduous duties in flooded trenches and the ravages of sickness gave rise to the greatest hardships. Yet Lloyd's Company carried out its share efficiently and was brought Home to recuperate after the evacuation of Flushing. Early in 1815 it embarked for service against the Americans and was actually at sea when orders were received for the company to disembark at Ostend for service with the Allied Army in Belgium. Here, armed with five 9-pounder guns and one 5½-inch howitzer, Lloyd's Company soon settled down and on June 16th was in action against the French at Quatre Bras. Attached to Alten's 3rd Division, the company arrived on the battlefield at a most critical moment and just in time to help repel a charge by the French heavy cavalry. The gunners fired furiously till the enemy were nearly up to the guns and then hastily took shelter in the infantry squares, from whence

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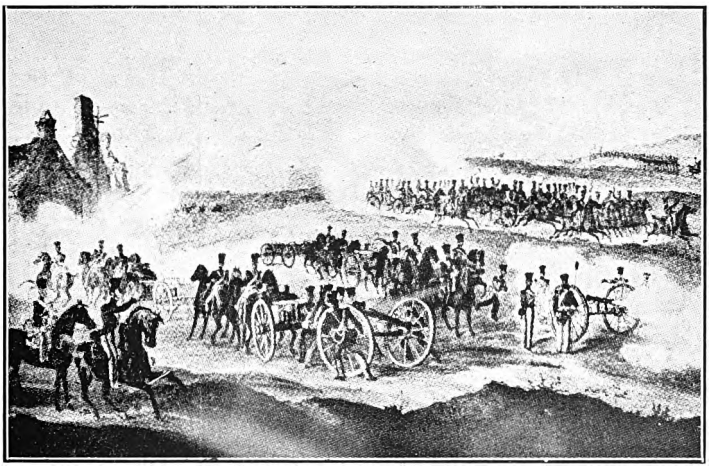
they emerged as soon as the horsemen had been repulsed. By smart drill they were able to pour a heavy fire into Ney's retreating cavalry, but Major Lloyd was himself wounded and several men killed.

Though the French attack had failed, the enemy still maintained a furious fire from a numerically superior



A FIELD BATTERY AT WATERLOO.

From an old print.

artillery and in particular from two batteries hidden in the wood of Bossu which caused heavy losses to Halkett's Brigade. To relieve the infantry, Major Lloyd boldly brought his guns forward, and, though quite unsupported by other troops and suffering severe loss, he silenced the hostile guns. The value of this relief to the hard-pressed infantry was immense and though two of Lloyd's guns were dismounted by the enemy's fire, he succeeded in

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withdrawing his battery complete. The French gradually retired leaving the British in occupation of the field.

Next day Lloyd's Company assisted to cover the retirement of the army from Quatre Bras to Waterloo and on the 18th June took part in the memorable battle which decided the fate of Europe. Lloyd's guns, still forming part of Alten's 3rd Division, were posted nearly opposite but rather to the British left of Hugomont which was the scene of perhaps the most bitter fighting of that furious battle. The position was very exposed and there was little protection from the overwhelming artillery fire of the French, but Lloyd's guns were never silenced. When after the failure of the desperate attacks on Hugomont came the furious charges of Napoleon's cavalry, Lloyd's men took refuge in the Guard's squares and plied their guns on the retiring cavalry after each charge had failed. Six times did the gunners thus temporarily abandon their guns only to return when the enemy had drawn off, and it was then that the gallant Lloyd received his mortal wound while giving orders to Lieuts. Wells and Phelps. No men could be spared from the guns to move him to the rear and it was not till many hours later that he could be taken to Brussels, where he died on June 29th. Lieut. Harvey, who had literally left his bride at the church door in England in order to rejoin the Company in time for active service, lost his right arm, the losses among the men being also severe.

After Waterloo, Lloyd's Company remained in France with the Army of Occupation until March, 1816, when it returned Home and was reduced at Woolwich on the 28th April, 1817. That this fate should have overtaken a unit with such a fine record was deplorable, when other companies had less claim to retention. Fortunately, the traditions and records of this fine unit were retained, when it was re-formed as the battery which now bears " Lloyd's Company " as its distinctive title.

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